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Volume 1 No.12

Britney Spears
Teen Queen

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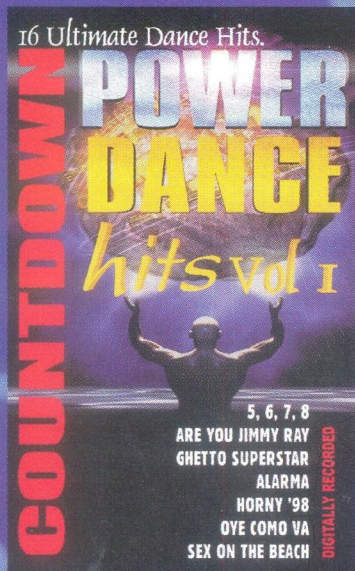
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Under His Eyes

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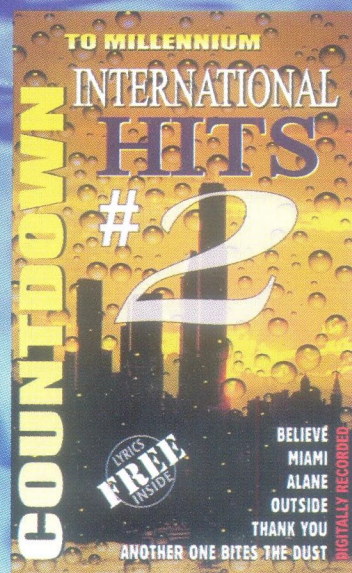
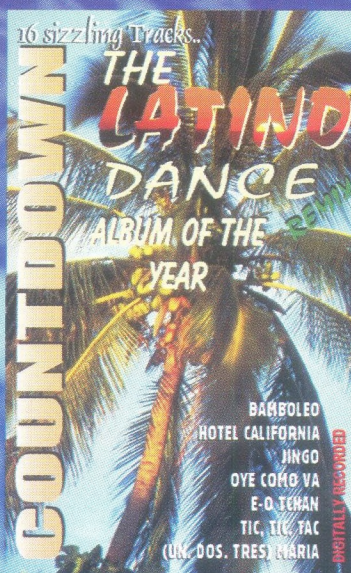
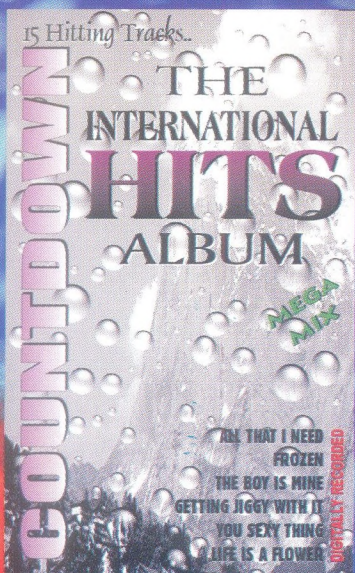
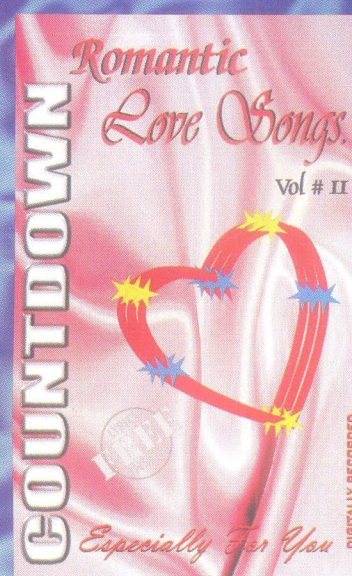
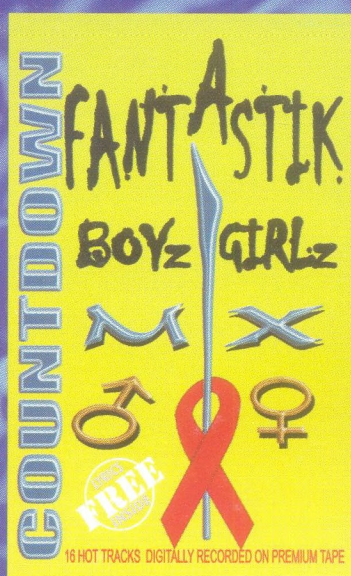
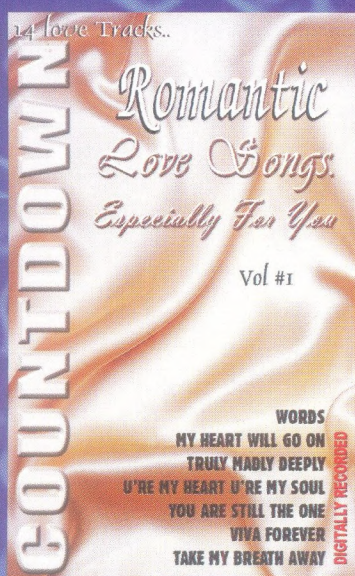
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THE COUNTDOWN



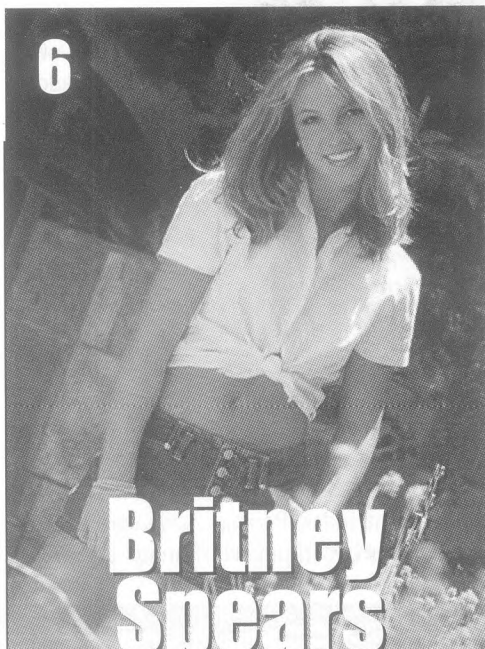
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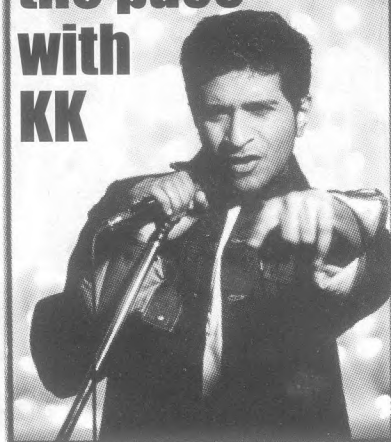
Britney Spears

Teen Queen

Britney Spears enjoys fame. In fact, as she herself put it, it's a bit like being on a jet plane. Which was how she felt, the first time she heard her smash single ".....Baby, One More Time" playing on the radio.

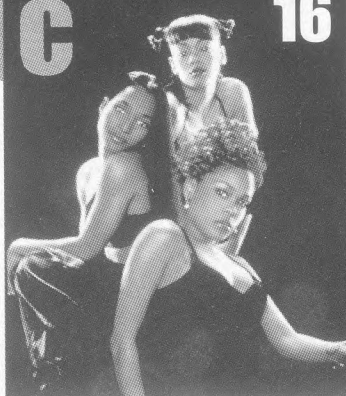
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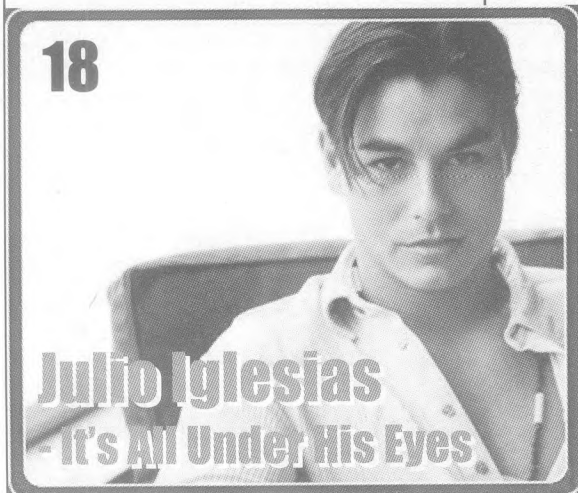
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Overcoming all the trials and tribulations TLC, a group which was conceived to represent the most desirable traits of womanhood, has today evolved into a formidable trio of mature artistes in their own right.

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- It's All Under His Eyes

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Most of you pub crawlers out there must be familiar with Fatboy Slim's music as no swinging party can be complete without a few of this guy's tracks doing the rounds. Here is an exclusive interview to get to know Normen Cook with a wider perspective.

DURAN DURAN

Defenders Of The Faith



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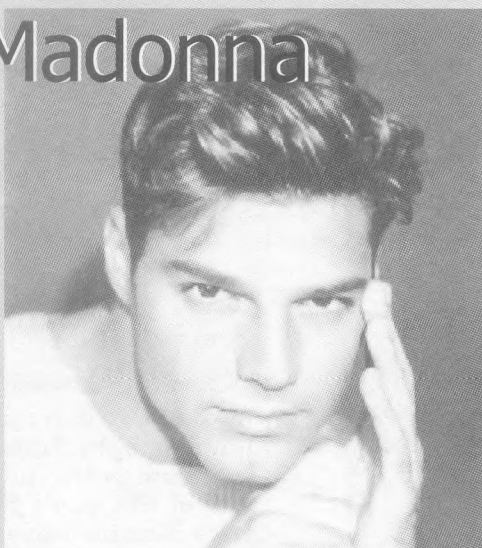
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Ricky Martin Teams With Madonna

Former Menudo member Ricky Martin, one of the highlights of this year's Grammy Awards, has seen his star shine brightly since his album *Vuelve* won for Best Latin Pop Performance. Along the way he managed to catch the eye of a person famous for spotting the trends of tomorrow. Next up for the singer is a duet with none other than the Material Girl herself, Madonna.



"She's so into changing culture, she always has been. She enjoys the Latin sounds, she's energetic, I'm energetic, so let's do something!" Martin told USA Today's Jeannie Williams.

The pair is currently working with William Orbit (who oversaw her *Ray of Light*) on a song that may be included on Martin's first English album, due in May. "I promised Madonna that if it works for my album, great, if it works for yours, great, for a soundtrack, great, or just to have fun — great," says Martin. "Let's not be dealing with a deadline. ... Let's take it easy. It has to come out of comfort."

on Thursday (March 25), promoting his latest effort, *Aida*, John had a hard time withholding his, well, distaste for Italy's favorite son. "It's just not my thing," he told Letterman. "I've seen several of his films, but this one was especially irritating to me. This," he added, picking up Letterman's blue coffee mug from the host's desk, "is funnier than Roberto Benigni."

Nude Keith Richards



Ah, another celebrity, another nude photo scandal. The list of celebs that have found themselves exposed on the Internet recently includes Pamela Anderson and her hubby, drummer Tommy Lee; Perry

BRITNEY SPEARS- BREAST IMPLANTS

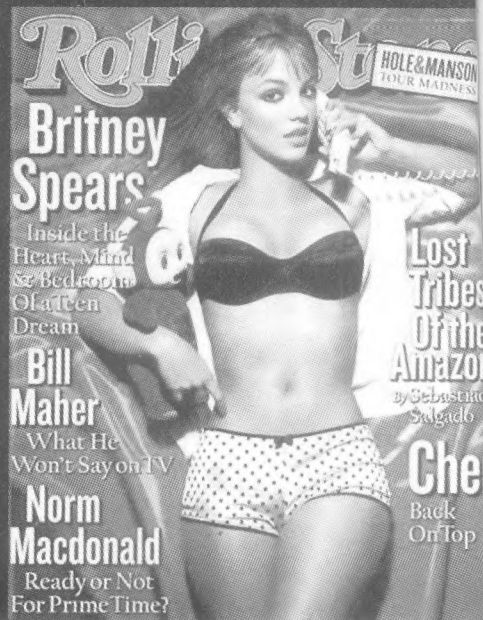
The suggestive Britney Spears photo spread in the latest Rolling Stone magazine had plenty of eyeballs bulging and tongues wagging at the 17-year-old pop phenom's physique, adding sex appeal to Spears' clean-and-innocent image. But, the New York Daily News reports, not everything about the snapshots is exactly natural — and that doesn't refer to air-brushing.

The News alleges that Spears is one of many celebrities who has gotten breast implants — not an unusual career move to make, but one seldom undertaken by an artist so young. The rumor apparently kicked up when staffers at a photo shoot noticed the telltale scars while Spears was changing outfits.

Spears declined to speak on the subject. "She said it's too personal a question to answer," a spokesperson told the Daily News. "However, she really doesn't think there's anything wrong with [it]."

Nevertheless, Spears seems to be untouchable by scandal. "I think it's fine and it's tasteful," she told MTV in reference to the controversial Rolling Stone spread. Her album, ...Baby One More Time, still resides at the top of the charts, and has sold more than two million copies in the United States. She is set to kick off a massive tour in June.

For the record, the entire subject of breast augmentation took a serious blow when the breast implant poster child, Pamela Anderson Lee, had hers removed last month.



ELTON DISSES BENIGNI

It seems not everyone is a fan of Roberto Benigni, the Italian comic who took home the Best Actor Award at the Oscars on Sunday (March 21), as well as the Best Foreign Film statue for *Life Is Beautiful*. Elton John, in particular, doesn't care for Benigni's schtick.

Appearing on The Late Show With David Letterman

Farrell; Vince Neil; and Dr. Laura Schlessinger. Now, Rolling Stone Keith Richards may be joining this exclusive club.

Internet Entertainment Group (IEG), which publishes Clublove.com, has announced that it has obtained three snapshots of Richards. Though it declines to state how it came into possession of them, IEG claims "it has the legal right to display" the pictures.

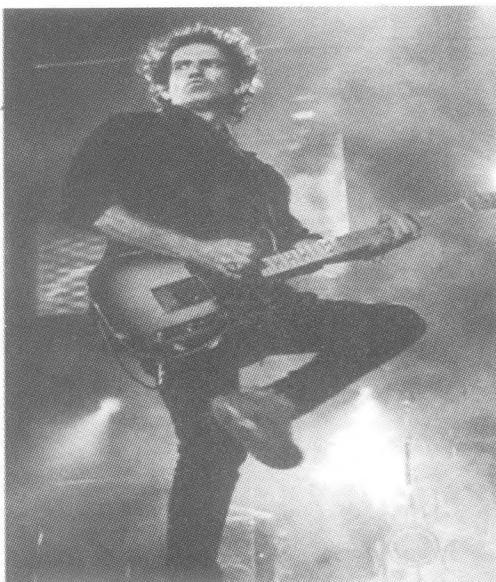
"One of the three photos on the site shows the guitarist totally alone, sitting in a beach chair at a tropical resort, without clothes and without any inhibitions," announces IEG in a statement. "Another shot shows him enjoying the sun and surf au naturel." "Richards and Mick Jagger are famous for their song lyric 'I can't get no satisfaction,'" a spokesperson for IEG says. "But these photos shows Keith knows exactly how to satisfy himself."

Sinéad Reclaims Her Daughter

The custody battle between Sinéad O'Connor and John Waters has taken yet another turn. O'Connor made headlines last month after electing to give up custody of her daughter, Roisin, to Waters, after a protracted battle. The U.K. press reported that the singer had lost as much as 28 pounds, and had taken a large number of Valium pills at one point, though O'Connor claimed she was not suicidal.

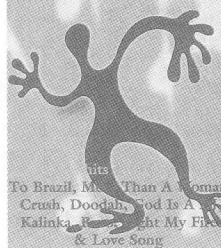
Now word comes that O'Connor has taken her daughter back from Waters. About two weeks ago, Waters, who lives in Dublin and is a columnist for the Irish Times, gave O'Connor permission to spend time with the child. Instead of just taking young Roisin for a walk, O'Connor took her to the airport, where the two boarded a plane bound for London.

"It is all true," O'Connor confirmed to the PA Newswire, before refusing to comment further on the case. The Mirror reports that O'Connor has hired around-the-clock security, and has installed a "state-of-the-art surveillance system" to prevent Waters from taking the child back.



THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

*Dance
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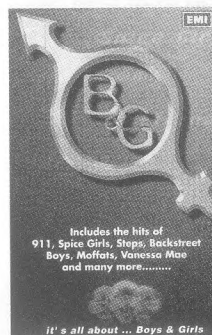
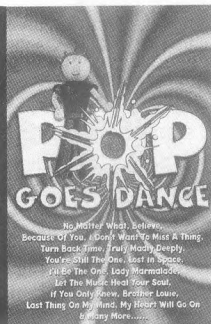


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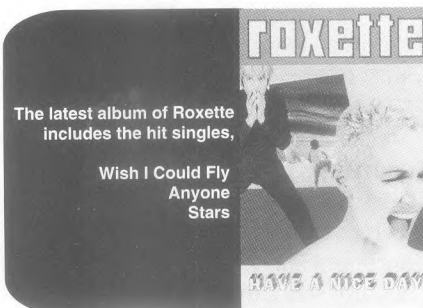
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QUEEN PLANS REUNION

It's been almost eight years since Freddie Mercury died, and now his former Queen mates are planning to reunite for a new album.

The U.K. paper *The Express* reports that drummer Roger Taylor and guitarist Brian May are working together, and that the pair hopes bassist John Deacon will come along for the ride. "The good news is I spoke to Brian May last week," Taylor told the paper. "He suggested we book a studio, write a song and see what happens. I haven't spoken to John in ages, but Brian and I are hopeful he will do it."

Taylor told the paper they plan to write a song first, and then finding someone to fill Mercury's shoes. The BBC reports that George Michael may have an interest in working



with the reunited group. "A lot of singers have expressed an interest in working with Queen," said Taylor. "We're not thinking of anyone taking Freddie's place permanently. I think this is just the right time to get together again."

Michael Jackson Denies Abuse Accusations

Michael Jackson has given a rare newspaper interview, denying the child abuse rumors that have dogged him for the past decade, saying that he would rather slit his wrists than hurt a child.

The King of Pop says in the interview with U.K. paper *The Mirror* that the child abuse allegations that had threatened to wreck his career were "wicked lies and rumors."

Mirror editor Piers Morgan writes that Jackson wept uncontrollably as he poured out his anguish about the "evil people who think I could do this thing to children."

Jackson also speaks of his joy at being a father of two children and his love for his wife, Debbie. "I love my children so much. They have changed me and my outlook on life," he says.



Pamela Lifts Tommy Lee's Restraining Order

Pamela Anderson Lee has requested that the restraining order against her estranged husband, Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee, be lifted.

Lee spent three months behind bars last year following a spousal battery incident involving Anderson Lee, who was holding the couple's newborn son Dylan at the time.

Now that the court-mandated injunction against Lee has been lifted, Crüe's heavily tattooed bad boy drummer can visit both his boys — Dylan and big brother Brandon — in their mommy's presence.

STOP PRESS!!



Geri Becomes Spice Ghoul

Geri Halliwell, formerly known as Ginger Spice, has tried to change her image since leaving the successful girl group in May of last year. Conservative clothing and a UN appointment helped but apparently weren't enough for the former Spice Girl, who takes on a whole new look in the video for her first single, "Look at Me."

In a series of pictures, the Mirror unveiled the new-look Geri — in a flowing white gown and with long, red extensions in her hair — prancing around tombstones followed by a group of nuns.

"Geri looks like a cross between Kate Bush and Madonna," one insider on the production was quoted as saying. "It's definitely a change of direction for her. The video will shock a lot of people."

The \$404,000 video was shot in the Czech capital of Prague. It starts with a Victorian funeral procession that winds through Highgate cemetery in north London.

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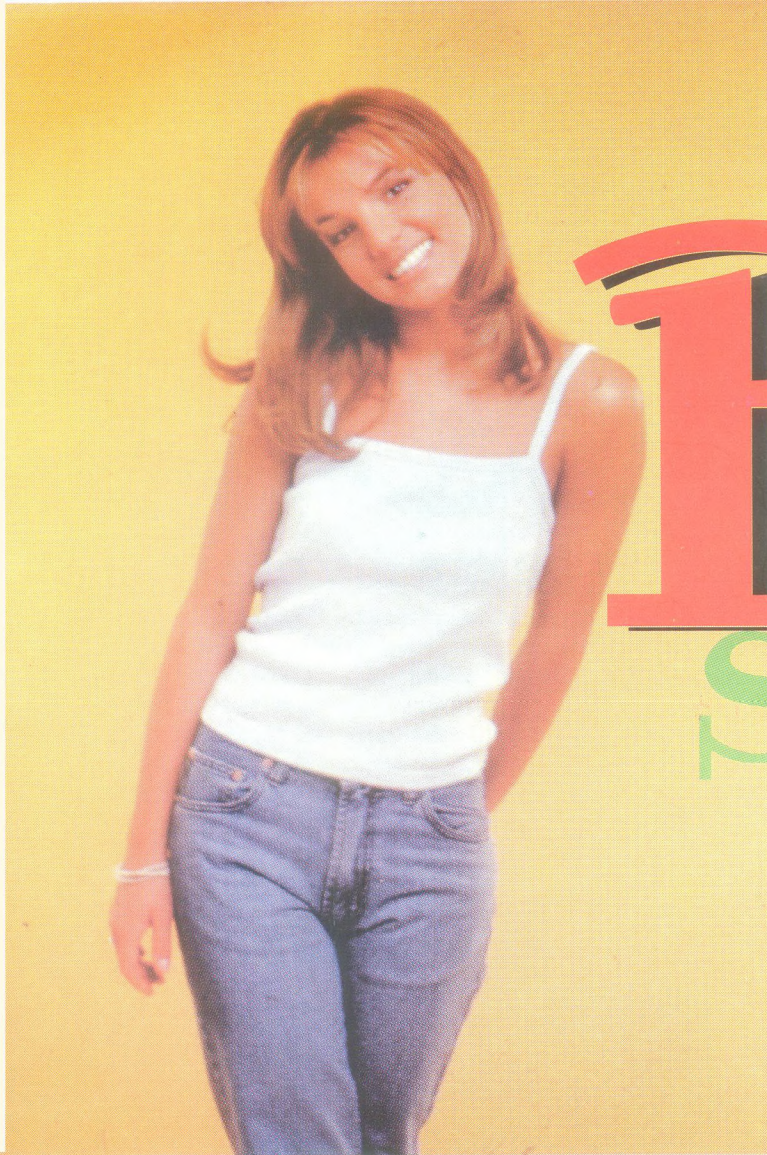
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Britney... Spearing Up The Charts

Britney Spears enjoys fame. In fact, as she herself put it, it's a bit like being on a jet plane. Which was how she felt, the first time she heard her smash single ".....Baby, One More Time" playing on the radio. She deserves the fame, too. ".....Baby One More Time" has been a US Number One Single, sold a coupla million copies of her album in the US alone, and has danced it's way into millions of hearts worldwide, as well as spawned an entire Britney Spears sub-culture, including personalized BritneySpears E-Mail (check out <http://www.britneyspears81.zzn.com>)!! She even has that conclusive proof of having "made it big", an Anti-Britney Hate Page dedicated to her!! Not bad for a debut offering from a small town American girl, huh?

The Story begins in hick town Kentwood, Louisiana, - boasting(?) a population of just 1200 people - a slice of rural America an hours drive from New Orleans. On December 12th, 1981, a bonnie lass was added to the Spears household. The name Britney Jean Spears was given to it, which led to her being called BJ for a long time!! Such an unwise choice of nomenclature, however, did not endear those who used it to her, and so a compromise was reached, her friends resorting to calling her Bit-Bit.

Britney started listening to music at a young age - Prince, and Whitney Houston being early favorites and developed a liking for the Prince classics, "Raspberry Beret" and "Purple Rain", (which still remains her favorite song) She

was a precocious singer, too, and gleefully confesses to driving her mom crazy, by regularly shattering the stillness of the Spears household by belting out songs, using a hair spray bottle as a microphone!! And all this at the tender age of eight!

She also performed since early childhood in local dance reviews, as well as in the church choir. Her interest in singing, and her melodic voice led to her auditioning for the Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club", at the age of 8, in Atlanta. Too young to take, but too talented a customer to dismiss, a producer with the show helped her secure an agent in New York. She spent the next three years of her life first at the prestigious Off-Broadway Dance Center, and then at the Professional Performing Arts

Her interest in singing and her melodic voice led to her auditioning for the Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club", at the age of 8, in Atlanta.

School, in New York. During this time, she also started to appear in national commercials and Off-Broadway shows, including the 1991 comedy, "Ruthless" based on the 1956 thriller "The Bad Seed." "At 10 I was playing this really bad child who seems real sweet but she's evil too. It was so much fun," she recalls, with a hint of nostalgia.

Through all this, she maintained her ambitions of joining the Mickey Mouse Club, and finally old enough at the age of 11, Britney earned a coveted place in the "Mickey Mouse Club." After two years spent performing on the popular children's TV show filmed in Orlando, Florida, Britney returned to Kentwood for one completely normal year of high school at age 14. "It was fun for awhile but I started getting itchy to get out again and see the world," she says.

Britney's 2 years on the Club helped tremendously in honing her already talented vocal chords. Also performing on the Mickey Mouse Club was a young man called Justin Timberlake, who six years later, would become part of N'Sync, and would cause a

Britney auditioned for a few record companies in The Big Apple, and was signed on by Jive Records at the tender age of 15. After getting together a set of songs (written by Eric Foster White and Max Martin), Britney was ready to roll!! The album was soon completed. Produced by White (also known for producing Whitney Houston and Hi-Five) and Martin (famous for his work with The Backstreet Boys, Ace Of Base, and Robyn) themselves, the album showcases

Justin Timberlake, who, 6 years later, would become part of N'Sync, and would cause a National debate on whether or not he was dating Britney Spears

Britney's unbridled effervescence and musical curiosity. From the sweet melody of "From the Bottom of My Broken Heart," to the driving funk of "....Baby, One More Time," to the funky reggae beats of "Soda Pop," to her soulful take on "You've Got It All," Britney's lively, assured vocal style is intoxicating!! "I want to be an artist that everyone can relate to, that's young, happy and fun," she says.

The next step towards the inevitable stardom of Britney Spears was shooting a video, so that America, in case it could not appreciate good music, would go ga-ga over her stunning good looks. ".....Baby, One More Time", the first video from Britney's self-titled debut. "Britney Spears", was shot in the same High School where that teen classic, "Grease" was shot, and went on to top the US Charts, becoming a massive International hit. As she herself put it, the song was "basically about a girl breaking up with a guy, and then she totally regrets it and wants him back. The video reflects it how I see the guy on the bleachers and I want him back. I wanted the video to be something that all kids could relate to. Being in school and then getting out and dancing."

Touring in support of the album followed, and Britney hit the road with those upwardly mobile cousins of the Backstreet Boys, N'Sync. The tour was a huge success, their albums eventually getting to #1 and 2 respectively!! Along the way, rumours also started surfacing about Britney and Justin of N'Sync., though the two of them stoically claim that they are "just good friends"

All the success and fame hasn't changed Britney, though. Her head is staying firmly on her shoulders, as she plans to go to college, and major in either Business or Communications (all this and brains too!!) Right now, though, she's having a ball.....

Britney is still a typical teenage girl at heart. This **5"5 Sagitarian** loves Prince, Aerosmith, The Backstreet Boys, and of course, Whitney. She is an avid romance novel fan-though the last book she read was

"The Horse Whisperer". Her favorite movies are "My Best Friends Wedding" and "Steel Magnolias". Britney also loves colours that pop up she like to shop till you drop", and her favourite stores are Gap and Armani. And ofcourse, she's an ice cream freak!! She can also be found on the Basketball Court (remember the video for Baby One More Time?), or playing Golf!

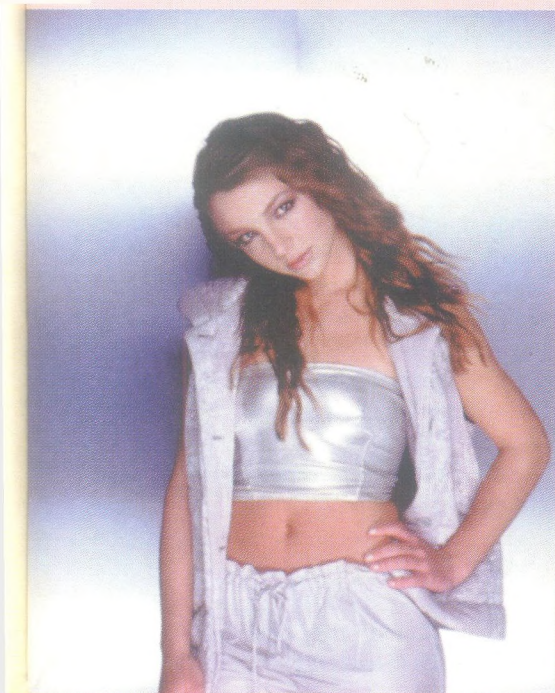
Britney's accessibility, and girl-next-door image have done wonders for her, and her album is currently enjoying an unprecedented run of popularity. Britney is working on the release of a new single (industry sources say it could be "Sometimes"), but, in the meanwhile, her album continues to burn charts worldwide.

"Britney Spears" has just been released in India, and is reportedly selling like hot cakes. As various reviews have put it, if you liked "Baby, One More Time", you'll like the entire record. So, what are you waiting for?

You want more of Britney!!
Well eat this!!

TR: Britney, what is the best present you ever got?

Britney: The best present I ever got, probably my collector doll that I got this year. She was so pretty. She like looked like an older woman and she had a hat on and I loved her and it just reminded me of my grandmother. And, probably, the ring I got this Christmas as well. It was really pretty because my little sister got one, my brother got one, and I got one. And it's just really, really pretty.



National debate on whether or not he was dating Britney Spears.....that, however, was still a long way off. Back once again in Kentwood, Britney found the Big City lure irresistible, and headed back to New York after a year. Joining all-girl group Innocense at the age of 14. The manager, however, saw that she was destined for greater things, and urged her to go solo. The rest is history.....

'Sometimes' - there's going to be a lot of dancing in it. Even more dancing than "Baby One More Time"

TR: What is the second video/single going to be?

Britney: "Sometimes." And there's going to be a lot of dancing in it. Even more dancing than "Baby One More Time" because, even though it's a mid-tempo song, I'm able to dance a lot in it though still. The choreographer is brilliant and he's like, you know, working away to where the dancing is just really out there and crazy. So I'm so excited and that's why my leg HAS to be better.

TR: What do you like better, dancing or singing or acting?

Britney: Probably singing.

TR: I love your outfits, Britney. Where do you shop?

Britney: Well, I shop usually at BB, it's a really, really cool store. And Abercrombie & Fitch is like the store to go to because when I'm on the road, that's all I wear, is comfy clothes. But, like, when I go out to eat or go out somewhere, I usually dress up in stuff like BB.

TR: Do you have a boyfriend? If not, will you go out with me?

Britney: No, I don't have a boyfriend. But I have to see you before I go out with you!

TR: Do you practice your dancing every day?

Britney: No, I need to because when I don't it makes me out of shape so when I do start dancing again I hurt myself, like I did. So I really need to, but no, I don't. I hadn't danced in, like, I don't know how long and I go and like a goob, fall on myself and twist my knee!

TR: You look so cute on the album cover. Who are your favorite designers?

Britney: Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, BB again, Tommy Hilfiger. Those are probably the main ones.

TR: What advice would you give to fellow teenage girls?

Britney: If they wanted to pursue a career, if you have a love for singing and dancing or whatever it is, I say go for it, because God's given you a talent, and I think you should express it and use it if he's given you wonderful talent like that. But if you mean in everyday life, what advice do you give

teenagers? You know, just go for your dreams and go for what you believe in and stay confident with yourself and stay happy with yourself.

TR: What is the weirdest thing that a fan ever did for you?

Britney: I don't know, probably calling me all the time and getting on my nerves and following me. That's probably the weirdest thing.

TR: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Britney: Probably Jamaica. No, no, no, actually Hawaii. Anywhere in Hawaii.

TR: What are you going to do for New Year's 2000, the millennium?

Britney: I'm definitely going to be at home because all these computers, I hear, are



supposed to shut down and I'm going to be sad. So my mom's like, "Britney, you're home." So I'm probably just going to party with my friends.

TR: What three CDs would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

Britney: Lauryn Hill, Natalie Imbruglia and Whitney Houston.

TR: You seem to be the type of person who has lots of friends.

What qualities do you look for in friendship? **Britney:** Someone you can really trust. Someone who is really honest with you and tell you the truth about anything, even if you don't want to hear it. And someone who is like you and is a lot of fun and you can laugh together.

TR: Do you have a car? Or what kind of car would you like to get when you get your driver's license?

Britney: Actually, I'm looking at cars right now and I'm probably going to get the 300 Mercedes. I was thinking about the 500 but the only difference in them are the engines, and they look exactly the same. So I'm probably going to get the Mercedes, the SL. They're so pretty. It's got to be a convertible.

TR: Any plans to get into the movies? Has anybody asked you to be in a movie yet?

Britney: There's been talk of some movies, but none that I'm really interested in.

TR: Do you ever wish it would all slow down for you and you could just spend a day being a typical teenager?

Britney: No. (laughs) Probably because, right now I'm doing that. I'm totally slowing down with my leg. And it's really good, though, because I needed the time off where I can just totally make my mind get sane again, because things do get crazy. But I'm about to go insane right now because I'm so used to being so busy. And once you're like that for a year, you don't know how to act when things slow down. But I usually get to go home every six weeks and see my friends. So I get to be pretty normal a lot.

TR: What was your favorite subject, or what did you do best in school?

Britney: English, because I love to read, and history.

TR: What's your favorite book?

Britney: My favorite book is "The Horse Whisperer".

TR: Do you have any final messages for your fans?

Britney: Just be positive and go for your dreams. Thank you!

By: Lahar Appiah

Cher — Believe
Warner Music Today

Deja vu anyone? Welcome to phase one of the future. Music is never going to sound the same to you again. Technology creates what man can dream of today. The beauty of it all - the sound of yesterday, is the sound of tomorrow.

Just like Cher. Yesterday's bad attitude rocker is now today's new age space girls. 'Believe' her upteenth effort has done it for her once again. Mind blowing pop twists makes this a real floor scorcher. From sex, drugs and rock'n'roll, Cher now ventures into the deep black hole. The title track 'Believe' already hit no.1 all over the place, surprising even the big lady herself! Smooth beats and a mindless echo, puts this down for the record books. Already way past her bedtime, this woman seems to be just warming up her gear in the fifties. All the younger brats are out and running. The follow up 'Strong Enough' hit surprise... Surprise no.1 again. Come on whadya expect? One taste..... and you're hungry for more. The ten tracks may not all be exceptional, but they're pleasing to the ear and really liven up the spirits. From Sonny's sweetheart to dominating mistress, this woman is in

ALBUM REVIEWS

the mood for some luv baby! Her vocals are at one point, a little edgy on the nerves, but hey who's complaining? Stuff like 'Love Is The Groove' and 'Runaway' are neat mind escapades from reality. Some old stuff of her's from the eighties is also here, remixed and recut for the dance floor 'We All Sleep Alone'. And 'All Or Nothing' will be her next number one, or I'll be a monkey's uncle! The woman has it in her, and no one can argue with that.

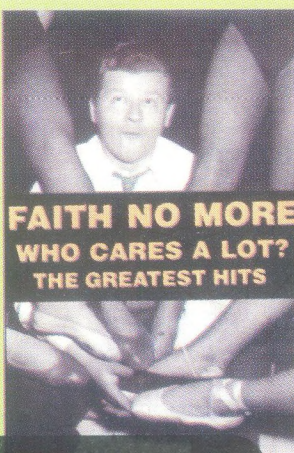
Hmmm.... so do you believe in Cher after all? Ten cuts on the album and one cool cat. Man... is the floor getting hot... or is it just me baby! Ciao and don't forget, are you 'Strong Enough' to live without the badboy himself? Ask Cher and she'll tell you.

Record Rating: ●●●●○

Faith No More — Who Cares A Lot? (The Greatest Hits)
Polygram

Everything is going wrong. The things that we believe in are gone destroyed, mankind's hopes shattered beyond recognition. A little regret, a little hurt and then there's —

Faith No More. Curses, they've damned us all to hell even before the bomb goes. The album's called 'Who Cares A lot?' And it's their greatest hits. For what its worth the band made uniquely great music. It had to be that good, anything less and there would have been no Faith ever! In the 1980's hard rock was at it's shiniest and these knights in silver with



FAITH NO MORE
WHO CARES A LOT?
THE GREATEST HITS

KEY: Classic ●●●●●

Cracking ●●●●○ Competent ●●●●○

Clumsy ●●●●○

Cack ●●●●○ Chunder ○○○○○

Album & Single Reviews by Fali R. Singara

Indi-Pop & Bollywood Reviews by Satish Sundaresan

THE OVERDRIVE EXPERIENCE

DANCE OVERDRIVE

FEATURING
NO MERCY : FIVE :
TOUCHE : LA BOUCHE :
MODERN TALKING :
NATALIE IMBRUGLIA :
'N SYNC & MANY MORE.

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their electric fenders and kooked out gigs did it in style. The new single 'I Started A Joke' is brilliant, absolutely grim and dismal. Originally done by Bee Gees, the song gets chilling by moment. At four in the morning it's exactly what you need to get through the day. They were mad - mad I tell you! All of them-Billy, Mike, Roddy, Chuck and all the others, making proud the rock scene. 85' we had 'We Care A Lot' to 1987's 'Introduce Yourself'. Nothing changed. But the lyrics, they got grimmer as the minute passes by. The 15 tracks on this one hell of a ride does have a lot of ups and downs. Not for the average teeny-bopper, 'Who Cares A Lot' is best taken in one dose at a time. 'Epic' is truly an epic with neat strings and lot of curses. Ofcourse Faith No More show their flashes of exception with the film noire inspired 'Evidence'.

They've broken up, but it ain't over yet like they say, till the fat lady sings. Former members included Hole's Courtney Love and Joe Pye. 'Who Cares A Lot' comes out tops in the end. No sissie looks or poppy boy-band sounds here. That wouldn't be their style. Because this really is faith no more.

Record Rating: ●●●●○

Duran Duran — Greatest Hits Milestone

Growl...! Watch out people the bad boys are on the prowl.... and this time they're showing no mercy. Only love, pain and deception the greatest gift of all —

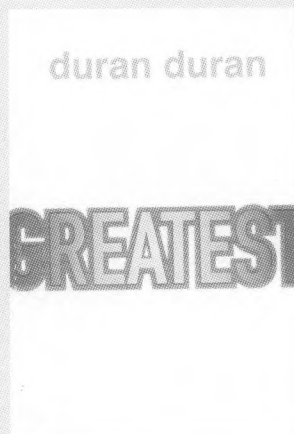
Duran Duran. Save a prayer for these boys, 'cause after this - there will be no morning after. More than twenty years in the bizz and they still haven't followed the rules. And I like it.... I like it! 'GREATEST' the name should say it all. It's all here - from the spaced out new age pop shocks, to the sober grim waking up of maturity. Classics like 'Rio' and 'The Reflex' is what makes the body groove. The very essence of the eighties sound is relived once again with 'New Moon On Monday' and 'Save A Prayer', their top ten hits. What started out as a teeny rock band, today is a part of Generation Next just like The Beatles were of X. The amazing part is you never ever know what's in store for you next. From a sober 'Come Undone' from their '92 hit album to a electrifying 'Hungry Like The Wolf'. The nineteen tracks on the record sound as fresh and brilliant as the day they were popped of the studio floor. 'GREATEST' is infact the greatest! Duran Duran are beautiful, just beautiful. It'll take a life time to ever sound like Le Bon and the boys. From the end of the seventies, right to the end of the nineties, the band has matured, just like a fine wine does with age. Little forgotten gems like 'Serious' and the Bond Chiller 'A View To A Kill' are included on this once in a life time deal. Their music at one point can hit you in your face and the next POW! You're crying to their heart wrenching lyrics.

Suddenly you realize - It's a 'Ordinary World' after all. Cool. That's what is. Every song is good. And I really mean it. Hey, come on would I lie to you? Duran Duran they're not just rebels against the establishment they're an 'Institution'. So do you homework and relive a part of history, when everyone was happy and music sounded like music! BANG...BANG BABY Duran Duran just shot you down... right where it hurts. Growl... I'm still hungry like the wolf... for more.... Duran Duran.

Record Rating: ●●●●●

TLC — FANMAIL BMG Crescendo

The three bad mamas are back. From being crazy, sexy and cool, this time around they've decided to answer the 'Fan Mail'. After a short period of hibernation, they've ready to kick back baby.



Unfortunately, like most good things do, they've been spoilt. From the days, when they sounded as fresh as a Ice-cream soda - 'Fan Mail' is a complete let down. 'I Am Good At Being Bad' is what they say first. Next 'Unpretty' is really nerve wrecking and just wants you to take a gun and end it all than take any more of the stuff. What happened to TLC? The seventeen tracks sound just like someone being tortured. Still the saving grace comes in the form of two or three good songs like 'My Life' and 'Don't Fall Out On Me Yet'. But two or three still don't make a good record. When they started out together in the beginning of nineties, they were fun, not scared to boldly go where no women had gone before. Now they're just reliving their old culture shock days. Still they have plenty of fans around still. Fan Mail did hit the top in the US.

But for how long? If these sisters don't clean up their act - and fast - there wouldn't be any 'Fan Mail' to reply to.

Record Rating: ●●○○○

Blur — 13 Milestone

Blur. They've come a long way baby. Few rock bands still churn out the good old stuff that actually sounds like the music. Creativity is at a new high, low with all the new bands ripping off the old stuff and playing it.

The definitive British rocker-loud, crash and I don't give a damn for you - that's lead singer Damon Albarn of Blur. The bands sixth record - '13' once again surprises us. In the early nineties 'Park Life' gave the boys a whole new fan following. With stuff like 'Boys And Girls' and 'End Of A Century' which seemed to given birth to a new concept - Electronica. On this new record, the chapter begins with their latest single 'Tender'. The pure energy behind this makes it a sure winner. Slow cuts, neat kicks and Albarn's hoarse whisper gives it two thumbs up. We relive a 'feeling of Deja vu as if fans remember - their 1994 soul searching 'To The End' sounded a bit the same. Ok, so what's the verdict here? Well, the thirteen tracks on '13' are defiantly above average and in some, fleeting glimpses of pure genius. 'Coffee And TV' a kind of nineties affair to remember is wickedly sadistic. The lyrics this time are the bands key to the listener. However much of it is unfocussed and fuzzy. Probably had something to do with Albarn's breakup with his long time girlfriend Justine Frischmann of the band 'Elastica'. Though a few may sound like someone butchering a whole orchestra, the bands saving grace comes in the form of 'No Distance Left To Run'. It's cruel, sadistic and very very loveable.

'13'. Lucky for Blur I guess. 'Optigan 1' is a grim lyric less piece of art. One listen and you know how I'm feeling right now- desairfull! This stuff is infections. Watch out for these boys! To the end...

Record Rating: ●●●●○

SARFAROSH — TIPS

There are certain phenomenon in life, for which people don't mind waiting for forty years (Halley's comet), Y2k (1000 years) and for Aamir Khan's release (one in a year). But this year seems to be different, 'coz the latest Coke stud has about 4 new releases (all of them seem to be a TITANIC at release - 'coz all of them are blockbusters - remember Aamir - the perfectionist?) Well, here we deal with Sarfarosh - Tips latest offering starring the one and only Aamir alongwith the long legged lass Sonali Bendre. They are supported by the baap of all actors Naseerudin Shah. The music of 'Sarforosh' is done by Jatin Lalit, who're currently riding high on success, after recent releases.



Well, the film has 6 songs (remember its an Aamir Khan's movie - so you know wot' to expect - the key word 'D-I-F-F-E-R-E-N-T'.) The first track is the much talked about and much hyped about watery sequence 'Jo Haal Dil Ka' by Kumar Sanu & Alka Yagnik (whoelz?) need we say more when Ye Dil Maange More!!1 The second track 'Hoshwalon Ko' is a gem of a track for its rendered by none other than the ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh himself! Lyrics are real soothers to the ears for years! The third track is a sur-prize track by the Khan man himself alongwith Alka Yagnik, remember wot the 'Khandala' song did to 'Ghulam' and Rani Mukherjee? Well, this may very well be the jinx-breaking track for Sonali Bendre - who has yet to prove that she has what it takes to be a starlet.

Side 'B' has 'Meri Raton' the fast - paced track by Alka Yagnik, followed by 'Yeh Jowari' by Kavita Krishnamurthy for a change - good vocals, excellent music. But the real cracker of the album is 'Zindagi Maut' by Roopkumar Rathod and Sonu Nigam which is a fine blend of sensible lyrics, excellent music and perfect rendition of tracks!

Well, 'Sarfarosh' is out and out, an Aamir Khan's film. But for whatsoever reason, the director doesn't want to hype about the music (remaining tracks). Well, when Aamir takes up a film, we know it's gonna be a 'SAR-PAR-ROSE' for 'SARFAROSH'!!! All the best John Mathew for your debut movie!!!

Record Rating: ●●●●○

ANARI No.1 — TIPS

First came Coolie No.1, then came Hero No.1 followed by Khiladi No.1, now its Biwi No.1, but the film that takes the cake & cream is Anari No.1 starring the one & only GO-WIN-DA...I mean... Govinda, along with the mast-mast babe Raveena Tandon & slim-run-ooops...Simran. 'Kuku Kohli tries to do a David Dhawan. When Govinda is the front-runner with the 'No.1' tag attached; you know wot to expect, whether its a comedy of errors or it could even be an error of comedy.

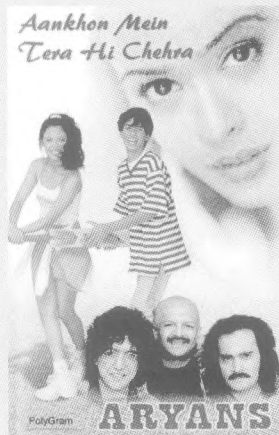
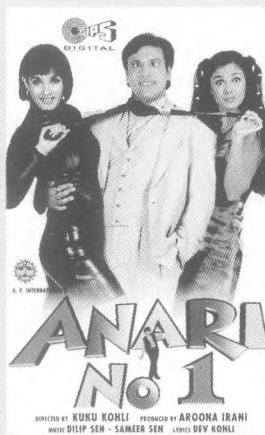
Whatever it is, 'Anari No.1' has 8 tracks - sensationally sensible (wot???) Side A's 'Dheere Dheere' is a track that's a bit different from others, 'coz it doesn't use any major music, instead it has laughter as its background music. 'Tujhe Dekh Ke' by Sonu Nigam and Alka Yagnik fits the album like a 'T' or may be like, a coffee. The next track, we feel should have been sponsored by IODEX 'coz 'Main Hoon...Ooh...Aah...Ouch' by Jaspinder Nirula and Abhijeet is an excellent example of sample lyrics. The other tracks 'Bol Hari Bol' & 'Le Aaya Hoon' are average numbers. But the craziest of them all is 'Main Laila Laila Chillaaoongaa Kurta Faadke' by Abhijeet & Jaspinder Nirula takes the entire cake for it in same lyrics. Well, Anari No.1 is strongly recommended for recharging. Overall, Anari No.1, is simply Anari Number Fun!!!

Record Rating: ●●●●○

ARYANS — AANKHON MEIN TERI HI CHEHRA

Wots happening, yaar??? First it was Noble Savages, now its Aryans. Whats' happening to the database of band-names, well anyway let's talk about Aryans and their 'Aankhan Mein Tera Hi Chehra'. The title itself is so familiar by now, all thanks to the music video featuring a girl, her boyfriend aur 'Woof' - 'Woof' here refers to a cute lil puppy. The song's aired umpteen times, that every Tom, Dick & Harry knows all the lyrics by heart.

The next track 'Shanna' by DJ is an unwanted "loud whisper". 'Chori - Chori' and 'Mano Re Mano' seem to be the tracks composed by the girl/guy next door. 'Bina Soche' by DJ is a qualifying track for quality.



Side B's 'Raju' is a slow - paced heartfelt track by DJ again. 'Marhaba' and 'Dilber Jani' proves Jai Wallia's ability as a singer and is a perfect acid -test to exercise his vocal cords. Jai Wallia can definitely be a lambey race ka ghoda. He has everything, what it takes to be a success or of Kumar Sanu's and Udit's. 'Chupke-Chupke' and 'Yeh Hai India' by Sadu, DJ and Jai Wallia prove the saying wrong 'Too Many Cooks Spoil The Broth'. They've proved that 'three's definitely not a crowd, instead its a reason to be proud. The Aryans, overall are a cut above the rest!!!

Record Rating: ●●●●○

CRICKET MERI JAAN — HMV

As we said earlier, people (especially Indians) don't mind waiting for phenomenon for ages. The next phenomenon is just about to begin. If you think of the silence now, then just remember that there is always a 'beeeeg' silence before a storm. The storm is in the form of the WORLD CUP '99. Everybody and every-body is waiting with bated breath, for the event. Now, how long does it take for commercialization to stretch its paws and gulp it down? Well as the World Cup is around the corner, every music company is cashing in an the 'World Cup Fever' by bringing out their own cricket album.

'Cricket Meri Jaan' from HMV, has 8 tracks, which when taken thrice a day for all days by the Indian team, will definitely guarantee the world cup for India. 'Josh Of India' and 'One Day Cricket' is a full-force song that rarely even gives a chance to bate an eyelid. It can even put Shankar Mahadevan's 'Breathless' to shame. 'Apna Tendulkar' is obviously all praises about our 'One Man Wonder' Sachin. 'I Love Cricket', 'Mar Mitegi Duniya', 'Dil Bechara' etc... are one better than the other. The one that's the icing on the cake is 'Kabhi Hoti Haar- Jeet' by Kavita Krishnamurthy is a real toucher, 'coz its really a very touchy track. Only hope, our World Cup's dream should become a reality, as enthusiastic as these albums. God, darling, the Indian team really needs your boost to rule the roost. Bless them ... as always!!!

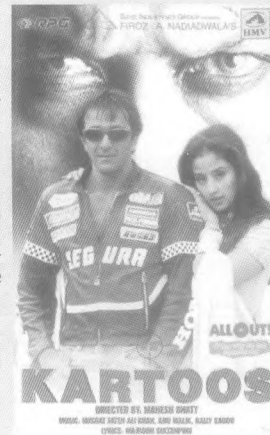
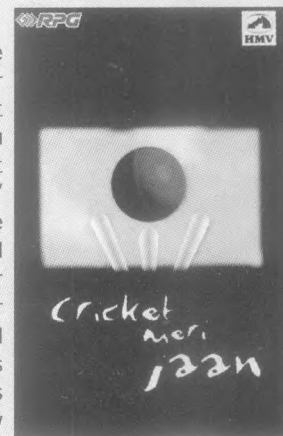
Record Rating: ●●●●○

KARTOOS — HMV

As we had told earlier, God knows how many films will have the 'Last-Film-Trade mark' of the legendary music-maker Nusratji. Well, the latest one now is the 'one-shot, one-kill' Kartoos. Well, this film is 'Zara Hatke' 'coz it has musical scores by three - YES! Three musical geniuses, viz. Nusratji, Bally Sagoo & our very won Anew Mallik... Anu Malik. The film has 6 tracks (eeezzz... wotz' happen in'? Everybody seems to be breaking the 8 tracks barrier).

Well, the film's first track has 'Ishq Da Rutba' by Ustad Nusratji - A first class attempt! - track that stands apart in the entire album. The second tracks' a direct lift - off of 'O Gore Gore, O Bhaankey Chorey' - you guessed it, its by Anu Malik titled 'Wallah Yeh Ladki' - good music, but it grows only on your mind only after repeated listening. The other tracks 'Teri Yaad' 'Gham Hai Ya Khushi' are your average kinda stuff! 'O Rabba' is an excellent track, which if promoted in the right manner can do wonders for the film and also for its singer Jayashree Shivram. It has damn good musical score by Bally Sagoo. 'Baha Na Aansoo' by Udit Narayan is again and outanting track. Well, KARTOOS definitely doesn't seem to be a "FADE -TOOS" at least not for the sake of stalwarts like Sanjay Dutt, Jackie, Manisha K, Nusratji, Anu malik and Bally Sagoo. Kartoos is definitely a album of apun ka samay... I mean ... an album of our times!!!

Record Rating: ●●●●○



Virgo Music

- Born Out Of Passion

Like most success stories this too was fueled with passion - a passion for music Navin Salian, an avid music fan, says that the Woodstock festival of 1968 and rock music had an important influence on his life and his work. And in 1993, his passion for music love fruit in the form of the Virgo Music Company.

Way back in '93 Navin, who is now the CMD of Virgo Music, came across this band that called themselves AGNI who were playing at a local gig. During a time when only Indus Creed was creating a name for themselves on the rock scene in India, he felt that AGNI had, what it takes to make it big. He heard them play a few cover tracks and many of their own compositions. He was so impressed by this talented group of musicians that he felt they had to be given due recognition. And in order to sign them up he started his own music company which was named - Virgo Music - after his star sign. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Virgo Music signed in a few not so happening artists, but finally hit the big time with a contract with Countdown Music of Germany on a long term licensing agreement. COUNTDOWN MUSIC is a leading version independent label, whose repertoire (sound

alike) music is very well accepted and sold throughout the world. To kick start this enterprising association, Virgo Music has launched the first batch of six cassettes, some of which have already featured in the Top 10 at Rhythm House - Mumbai for a few weeks.

The six albums are:

1) Power Dance Hits: Features hit like '5678', 'Are You Jimmy Ray', 'Ghetto Superstar', 'Sha La La', 'Bellissima', 'Sex On The

Beach' and more...

2) International Hits: Including 'Frozen', 'Gettin' Jiggy Wit It', 'Waterfalls', 'Deeper Underground', 'The Boy Is Mine', etc.

3) International Hits #2: Featuring 'Outside', 'Believe', 'Alane', 'The Rockafeller Skank', 'We Like To Party' & more....

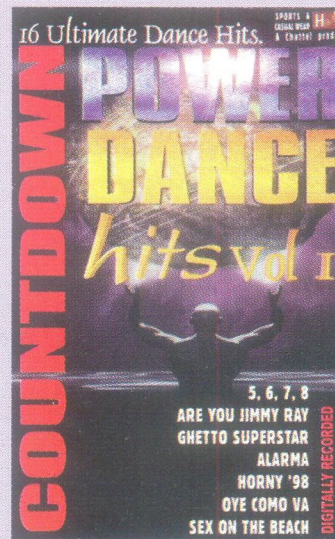
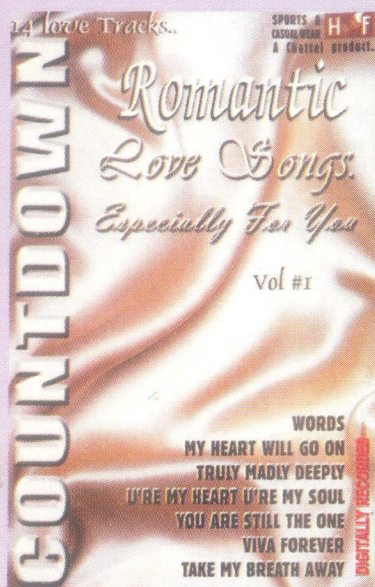
4) Hip Hop Party: With 'Rumble In The Jungle', 'I'll Be Missing You', 'Ooh La La', 'Let's Ride' etc.

5) Romantic Love Songs #1 : Includes 'Words', 'Still The One', 'Truly Madly Deeply', 'My Heart Will Go On' and many more....

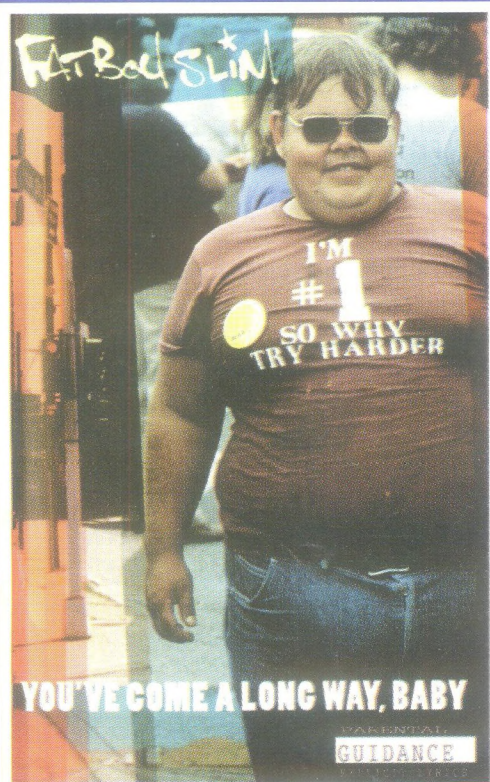
6) Romantic have songs #2: Featuring 'Love Me For A Reason', 'I Believe I Can Fly', 'From This Moment On' & 'I'm Your Angel'.

The music is eventually top dance tracks and chart-busters that are doing the rounds of the music channels and caters to the demands of the pub - crawling generation. Most of the compilations have been selected by a system of votes from young individuals and DJ's. Even though the songs are not sung by the original artist, they are a good buy if you are not fussy about your music. The remakes are pretty close to the real thing and the production is top quality. Navin says that the customers can be rest assured that they will be getting good competition and the best quality, too. The company also believes in brand image, so every product will has the COUNTDOWN logo on its left side. All the cassettes and CDs of Virgo Music are priced at Budget level to counter the high priced products that are available from the multinational music companies, with quality that matches up to the best in the business.

Future releases to watch out for, apart from their hit completions are some cool club and trance music albums form the Netherlands. So the next time you go to your favourite music store make sure you check out the stuff from the newest kid on the block - Virgo Music.



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IF YOU'RE IN THE MOOD, GRAB A PEN AND LIST ANY TWO TRACKS FROM THE ALBUM 'YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY'.

TRACK #1:

TRACK #2:

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

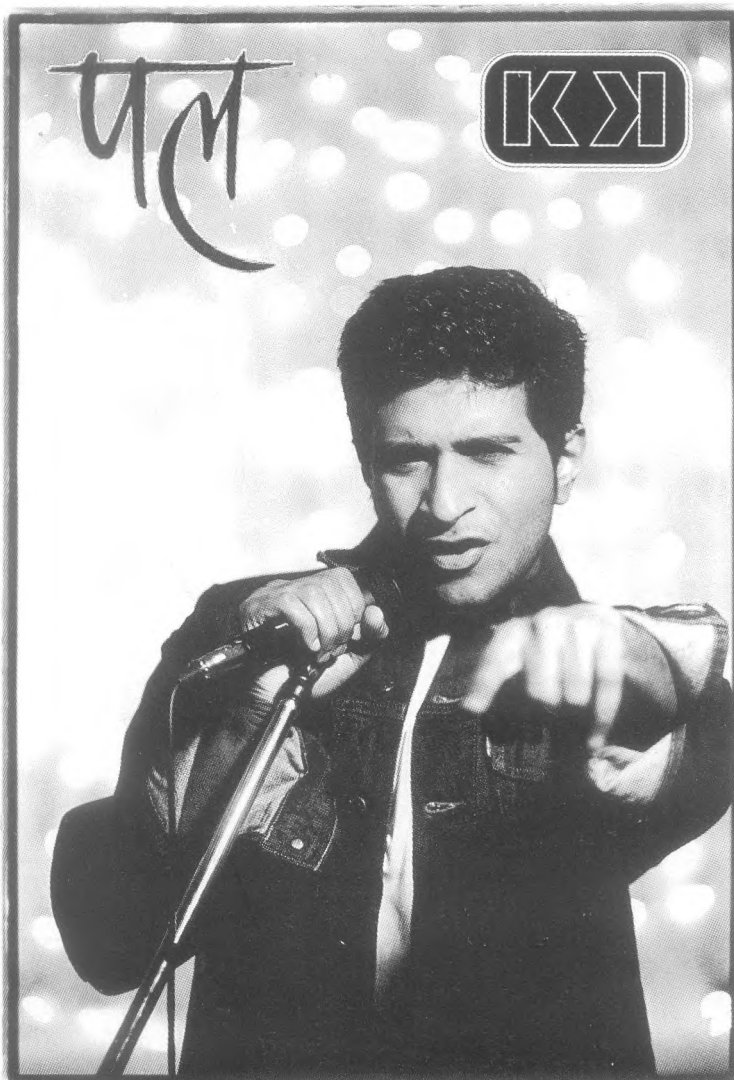
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SETTING THE PACE WITH KK

There is electricity in the air, a new style of enchanting music is going to enrapture all of us. That is because KK a veteran in the ad jingle industry has cut out his first album with the guidance of LEZZ LEWIS. KK is the most down to earth star, with his head on his shoulder, kind of laid back guy. He is the kind of guy who lets his music do the talking. But before you go grab his first album, check out how it all came about.



Shyamal: What does KK stand for, and could you tell our readers a bit about yourself?

KK: Well, KK stands for Krishna Kumar I thought we should stick to it, 'cause its short and sweet, easy to remember and people know me by that name. To tell you about me, I was born and brought up in Delhi, did my schooling education over there. I love my music, love to perform live I'm a very laid back character, not to pushy but sometimes I get pretty wild on stage. I love to eat and well that's about it, the shorter version at least (laughs).

Shyamal: Could you give us an insight on your musical background?

KK: **Initially I started of my training surrounded by the four walls of my bathroom.** After that I did have some training in school, but that was very informal stuff. In fact my dad did send me to classes but the best I could do was attend it for 3 days, that was it, and that was good because with training and all I might have sounded totally different, so in a way it was a good thing not to happen, 'cause I'm happy with the way I sing.

Shyamal: What were your musical influences when you were young?

KK: When, I first started listening to music it was disco like ABBA and BONEY M, then as my friend circle changed so did the music which was rock, both hard & soft, for e.g. guys like Def Leppard and White Snake. Now a days my tastes have changed to good pop music. That's what time does, as you mature your tastes change gradually. I just freak out on George Michael's music.

Shyamal: Did your family and friends support you all the way?

KK: **My family especially my mother & father were very, very supportive of decision to give up everything and concentrate on my music.** It was like after college, I did not know exactly where I was headed sort of confused so I took up a sales job. But after some time I could not take it, it was like I was trapped, so I left the job and decided to take up music. When told my dad about he understood exactly where I was coming from. I mean I could not have come so far without my families help.

Shyamal: When did your career as a professional music singer take off?

KK: Actually, its not that one fine day I become a professional musician. I started seriously in my college days, but I would say the turning point would be the day I left my job and started focusing on singing while in Delhi. I started doing a whole lot of jingles for ads and some live shows, that was the time I started being recognized as a professional musician.

Shyamal: Television ads, bollywood and now your own album can you tell us a bit about the transition?

KK: Well I started off with jingles, that was the first step to being a singer. Secondly I felt very comfortable with the ad scenario, and I always have a great time doing stuff like Monte Carlo, and the latest Pepsi one the **Yeh Dil Mange More** Jingle. I have not done many songs for Bollywood. I have worked with a guy called Ismail & of course Rehman which was a great experience, but I always wanted to out my own album. That was my dream.

Shyamal: Tell us a bit about the album?

KK: Well basically the album has a very **rock 'n' roll** feel to it, so the most challenging part of the recording was to create a feel that could be understood by the man on the street. **The aim of the album is to tell the people a story in their language but with different kinds of vibes in the background.** As for the song writing, I have written a lot of the stuff and some of the songs have been co-written by me. I teamed up with Mehboob who I've known since my Rehman days. So we kind of just used to bounce off ideas and decide on the thing that sounded just right. The composing has been done by Lezz, (of Colonial Cousins fame) there is a lot of him on the album, and he just took our music to another level.



Shyamal: Did this break come easily or was it a struggle at the beginning?

KK: Well, when I moved from Delhi to Bombay with my wife it was pretty tough, I mean I was new to this city, did not know many people. At that time my wife supported me tremendously. So for about six months there was a dry period & I was living off my life savings, **that's when Lezz came up to me and said that if I showed patience & perseverance things would work out for me.** And they did, but there was a period of insecurity with no particular direction in life, but then Lezz introduced me to guys at Sony, I showed them my work, which they liked. Then they signed me on.

Shyamal: What instruments do you play?

KK: I have played the drums ever since tenth standard, it was always my favourite instrument, I also play a bit of the keyboards but that's only basics and not very, very professional.

Shyamal: Do like performing and why?

KK: **I love live gigs, because there is a connection with the people who like your music, where as in the studio everything is so technical,** like the mike, the equipment but in live shows **there is this electricity,** a sort of energy which I just love.

Shyamal: What are the tips you would give to youngsters who want to make music as their careers?

KK: If the youngsters want to do this just for the money & fame I'm the wrong guy to ask, **but if you do it for the love of music then I would say do what you like to do, do not compromise and let it come from the depths of your heart.**

Shyamal: Which are your favourite tracks on the album?

KK: All of them are really good. The album is a mix of fast and slow tracks. Among the slow ones I like 'Pyar Ke Pal' which is like a classic ballad. While amongst the fast ones I like 'Dil Se Mat Khel' & 'Aap Ke Pass'.

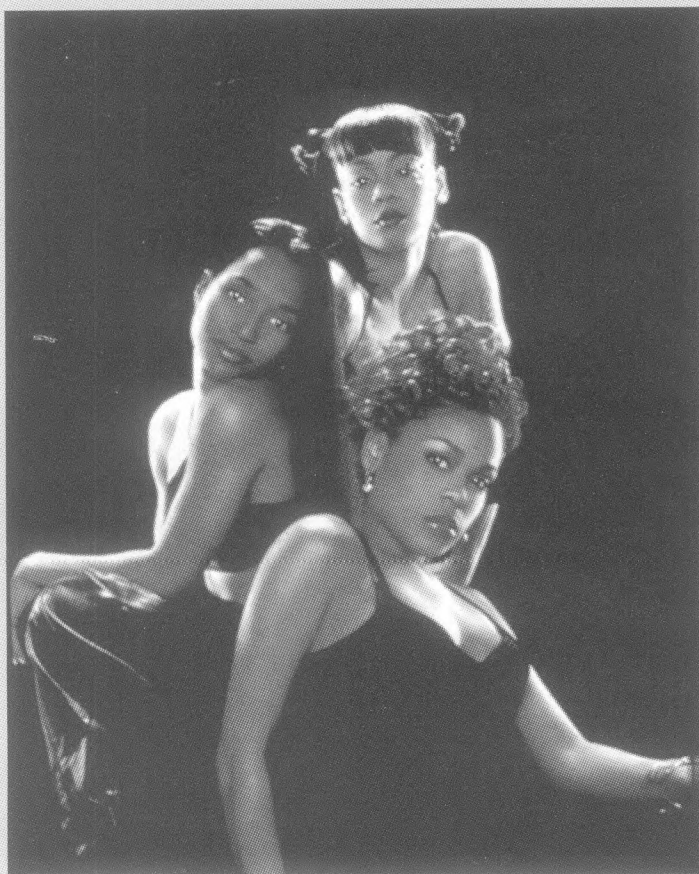
Shyamal: What does the future hold for KK?

KK: Immediate plans are basically to make the video and await for the album release, the promotional tour. Generally speaking I definitely want to be an integral part of the pop, Indie pop scene in India, cut some more albums. Maybe after I've established myself in India, I could do some work on the international scene.

Shyamal: Please say a few words for our readers?

KK: Well keep reading and listening to good music. And you (the readers) all are the reason I'm here. I mean If you all were not interested I would not be here thank you.

By: Shyamal Bhojani



a major argument with her boyfriend Andru Rison, Lopez set fire to his \$8,61,000 home and also smashed a couple of near by cars in a fit of rage. Although the couple reconciled soon after, the courts slapped Lopez with a fine of \$10,000 and 5 years probation. But because she invoked a defense that showed her as a problem drinker, Lopez was also required to undergo rehab. In an interview later, Lopez said her retaliation against those who deemed her unstable took the form of renewed musical vigor. "I didn't struggle this far to have people tear down she added".

In November 1994, TLC released their much awaited second album titled *Crazy, Sexy, Cool* unlike their first effort this album presented a less teeny - bopperish TLC. With hardly and rap songs. Produced by the team of Austin Babyface and Sean 'Puffy' Combs, this album unveiled a more mature TLC with some amazingly polished sounds. *Crazy Sexy Cool* smashed thru' the world over with scorching hits like 'Creep', 'Red Light Special', the funky 'Digger On You' and the stunning 'Waterfalls'. The album not only sold 10 million copies but also presented TLC as a major force in the music world by garnering a plethora of prestigious music award nominations. Among the major awards they carried home were:- Grammy's for Best R & B Album and Best R & B Performance by a Duo or Group, MTV Video Music Awards for Best Video of the Year, Best R & B Video, Best Group Video and the Viewers Choice Award — all for their number 1 smash hit 'Waterfalls'.

But things were not hunky-dony as they seemed. Multi-platinum album sales notwithstanding, TLC was struggling to get its financial affairs in order. Within a year of the release of *Crazy Sexy Cool*, the trio filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, having incurred debts of approximately \$ 3.5 million. And the groups monetary trouble wreaked havoc within TLC's inner circle, with accusations flying fast and furious between the La Face personnel, the management company and the group itself. With their music careers being temporarily put on hold, the trio started devoting more time to personal projects. T-Boz began speaking publicly about her struggle with sickle cell anemia and subsequently became a spokesperson for the National Sickle Cell Association. She also landed a role in the Hype Williams film - *Belly*, co-founded a line of clothing called *Crongy Colamoron* with Dallas Austin, wrote a book of poetry and now has a cartoon in development. Meanwhile, Chilli gave birth to a son 'Tron, who was identically fathered by Austin. She too managed to have a role in the movie 'Have Plenty'. However, Left Eye continued singing and lent her voice to Method Man's *Tical 2000*. She started her own record company - Left Eye Productions and has reportedly completed her first solo album tentatively titled *Fantasy.com!* Slated for release later in 1999. She also got the job as hostess of the popular daily MTV talent show 'The Cut'.

Finally putting aside all the acrimony and turmoil, TLC began work on their third album, and put to rest many rumours and innuendos regarding their future. The album, structured as a acknowledgment of the loyalty of their fans, was aptly titled 'Fast Mail' and was released in February 1999. It features the trios most personal work till date and carries 'Subtle' undertones of the crises of the group has endured. The album also showcases the trios evolution lowered a more mature and aggressive sound of music and is packed with sure-fire hits like 'No Scrubs', 'Silly Ho', and 'I'm Good At Being Bad.' Their fans also shared that the group's faith in them was well placed as 'Fan Mail' catapulted to the top of the charts win one of the biggest debuts of the year. The album has sold over half a million copies in the first 2 weeks of its release. In a recent interview Chills explained the theme behind the album, "We wanted to make this album universal. It's for our fans, but its also for people who have never heard us. We have this combinations of personalities and chemistry coupled together - and what we've been through has prepared us for what we're doing now".

The success of 'FanMail' proves that TLC is back and better than ever. The trio are now also gearing up for their first world tour, this summer. Well cheers to this gutsy trio and we hope they get crazier, sexier and cool, cool, cool!!!

By: Sanjay Santwan

Julio Iglesias Jr. Now where have I heard the name before? Hmm... I get it... he's the new kid on the block getting ready to take over. From being just another pretty face, he's now a serious musician.

Ok... I get the hint!! Good looking, talented and a great voice... say - what's he got that I haven't? That's for you to figure out baby! Twenty five and single, old Jr. here is ready to hit the road. Son of the famous loverboy himself - Julio Iglesias (senior ofcourse) our your singer over here decided to come up with a serious offering for the ear buds. And guess what? It seems to have worked! 'Under My Eyes' his first piece of work is neat and he seems to know his music. And I like the man like that. The influences are very prominent on his album from Sting to Michael Jackson, but he's got his own style that sounds good. Julio has done everything - from

Fali: Did you expect to be sitting here in India ever in your past?

Julio: I am very happy to be here in India for the first time in my life. I never expected to land up here and the so many farout places I've been going to.

Fali: Could you tell us a little bit about your music?

Julio: Well...its like pop, R&B and soul. Its got a little bit of everything. The albums called 'Under My Eyes' and its got nine original tracks done by me. What else has it got? Let me think - aha.. its got ballads, its got tempo's, its got dance songs - something for everybody.

Fali: 'Under My Eyes'...cool name for the album. What's the story behind it?

Julio: 'Under My Eyes' is like the first song I ever sang in my life. Its a

It's all under his eyes!

anchoring a show for 'The Travel Channel' on TV to being a model on the catwalk. The big surprise is - that he's just an ordinary guy after all. Fame and fortune doesn't seem to have affected him much. Now I will let you all in on a little secret. He came down the other day to India, but nobody knew about it! Like a cool character from a Bond movie, our secret agent over here, went down and caught up with the man. There I was, sitting right in front of him, trying very hard not to look at those gorgeous half

naked creatures in their swimsuits. The pool looked really inviting with the decorations around it. And Julio was sitting as calm as can be, answering away my questions. The guy is cool... there's no doubt about that! Hey ... think about it. He makes great music, talks like a gentleman and has a great team behind him from the smart manager to those oh my God!! I can't take it anymore. Those woman, those beautiful women! And then our friend over here - Julio Iglesias Jr. tells me, that they are the dancing troop...

Dancing troop....dancing troop? Hey why didn't I think of that? Amazing....our hero over here is going to get to the bottom of all of this - literally speaking. here's the exclusive one on one I got with the man —



Julio Iglesias Jr

song that tells you, that you don't have to go very far to solve your problems - they are just under your eyes!

Fali: What sort of music do you listen to?

Julio: I grew up listening to artists like Billy Joel, Michael Jackson, Sting, Bryan Adams, George Michael - that's the kind of music that makes me really happy. These guys are not just amazing recording artists - they're outta control songwriters too.

Fali: Do you write and compose your own music?

Julio: I write my own music with my guitar. I started playing when I was sixteen years old, so I'm really into it. I love to play before a live audience....if you know what I mean.

Fali: Who do you think 'Under My Eyes' the album would appeal to?

Julio: I think my music is going to appeal to.....(takes a deep breath)...if God wants it to... hopefully with everybody. Its an English album, its going to go around the world...atleast I'm going to go all over the world promoting it. My music has everything. It can make people smile, make people happy - and that for me is the most important thing.

Fali: Hey cool, my brother! Now the thing is - your dad's already an accomplished artist. People are definitely going to criticize your music and make comparisons with your dad. Can you handle that?

Julio: Every time I do something, I do it to the best of my abilities, I worked very hard on this record and I think...I think I did my best.

Julio has done everything - from anchoring a show for 'The Travel Channel' on TV to being a model on the catwalk

This honestly is the most hardest project I've done in my life. I always wanted to be a singer. The comparisons are inevitable. You can't help that. But I now I did my best and father and I ... we have completely different music, completely different everything you know...so you really can't compare.

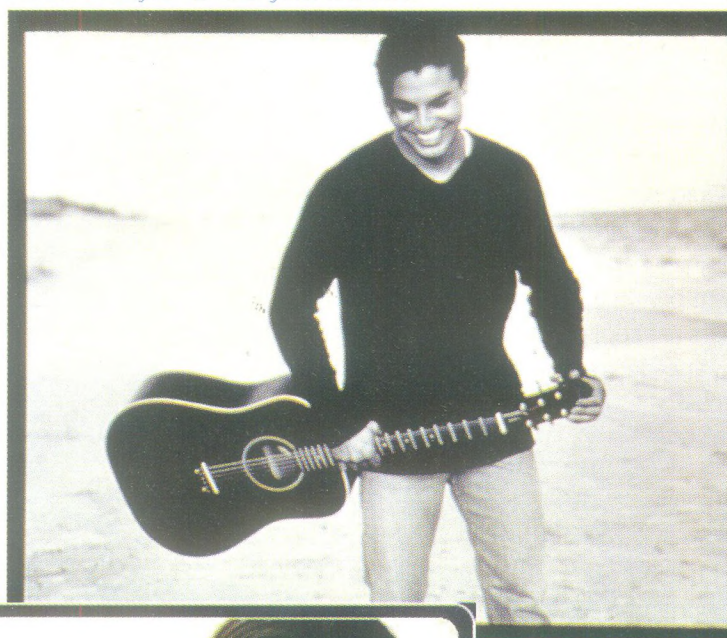
Fali: Okay now lets get a little personal with you, what was your childhood like? Do you have a lot of friends?

Julio: Well I grew up in Madrid, Spain, till I was ten years old. Then I moved to Miami, Florida - USA. I lived a very normal life a kid. And I still do! I love sports, I really loved all my life. Now I'm just into water-sports and my music. But my life has been very very normal.

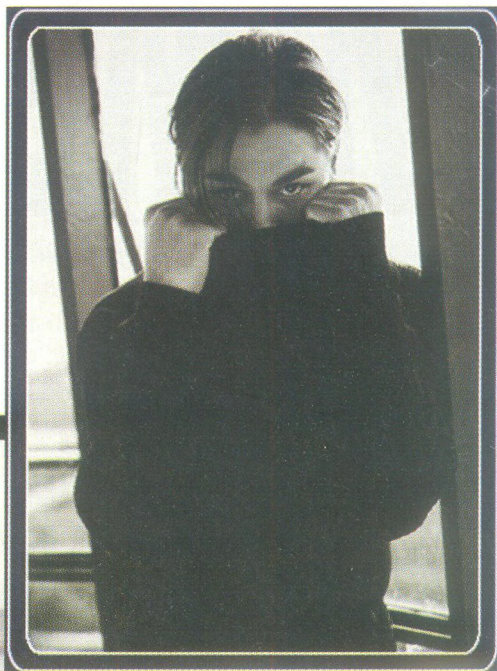
Fali: Hey, you must be surrounded by sexy woman all the time. So what's your idea of the perfect soul mate?

Julio: She's gotta be intelligent...ambitious. She's got to have a sense of humour. And if she is good looking....it helps a man!! (laughs).

Fali: So have you found anyone like that?



Julio: The coolest thing I've ever done in my entire life... God damn.... I went waterskiing behind a car. It was a big stretch of land with water in the middle and I went with a car - instead of a boat, I went with the car!!



Fali: Any regrets in life...did you ever go - damn I should have done this? Or I wish I could have done this stuff?

Julio: Maybe I wish I did better in school! (Laughs) I was never a good student. But I'm still happy with myself.

Fali: What do you think of India? Is it remotely close to what you expected?

Julio: It's interesting....so interesting.... cause I got a chance to go out there. I like cows and lot of them

on the street. And they're chilling... you know they just sit and the cars go by and they don't care - they're like I'm here and nobody's going to do anything to me. The people over here have also been very nice to me.

Fali: What does your father have to say about your music? Does he approve the sound?

Julio: My is extremely happy with my music. He thinks it is very interesting since its so different from his.

Fali: As a kid, what did you want to be? You know a

When I spend time with a girl, I like to spend a lot of time with her

Julio: My whole life I've only had two girlfriends and its mostly been very long relationships. When I spend time with a girl, I like to spend a lot of time with her, if you know what I'm saying. And right now, because I'm working so hard, traveling all over the world - I don't have

lawyer, policeman or something?

Julio: First thing I wanted to be was a fireman! Then I went to America and saw those cheerleaders and I wanted to be a football player, and after that I wanted to be in public relations, getting along with everybody. Now I'm just a musician.

Fali: Ok last question - who's been the coolest idol in your life? Every kid has one you know - Superman, Batman and stuff, so who is yours?

Julio: My dad. Yeah - keep the faith my brother, its nice talking to you.

And its nice listening to you. So with 'Under My Eyes' already out and ready for the big touchdown, we'll just have to wait and see what happens. The way I see it, the road looks a long and tiring one for Julio Jr. but he's getting there.....yeah... he's getting there. Check him out yourself and let me know what you decide. I think he's pretty decent fellow, who's doing it the right way - the way to success!

By: Fali R. Singara

any time to spend.

Fali: What do you think is the coolest thing you've done in your entire life?

SUMMER SUMMER 1999 SUMMERTIME

Sticky armpits, stinky armpits and most of your hard earned salary goes in buying Gucci deo's that are fake ones bought from the guys sitting at Colaba. Yeah man this is the down side of a hot blistering summer in Bombay. Hey, hang on dude, yeah you may sweat like a pig but there is an up side too. The hot looking Chikitas start to wear stuff that requires only millimeters of cloth. Oh yeah the skin starts showing and your eyes are roaming all over the place. Little is left to the imagination. Ain't that exciting. Though the temperatures are above 35 degrees, but when one of these living skin parades in front of you the temperature needle suddenly plummets below freezing and you wish you could just cuddle up with one of the pretty girls to get the blood circulation going. Dream on brother, excuse me if I sound like a frustrated pre-pubescent little boy but what can I do I am like this only.

Hmm, so what should you do to look cool as well as feel cool, maybe we could all get together and jump into the sea naked. Bad idea, no, no not because of the naked part. In all probability we would end up becoming mutated due to the polluted sea water. Another option could be buy out an ice cream parlour and sit eating Tutty Fruity or some such colourful flavour. Ice cream parlours are cool places to hang out, what I'm saying is all the cool folks end up there, another reason is that all ice cream parlours have good air conditioning. At least they ought to, otherwise the ice creams will melt and then it will not be ice cream, any idiot knows that right.

When you are considering what to wear, do not consider any more. Cotton, cotton and more cotton. Cotton is the lightest material but it will not stop the sweat, so even if you leave your wallet at home do not leave home without a deo. Personally I prefer fresh smelling broke friends to the stinking rich, no pun intended. If you are the kind of person who has a half decent physique, flaunt that body, especially all you pretty girls out there. If you are fat, cover up and do not let it hang out as they say. Hey nobody said you have to have Jennifer Lopez's butt and Cindy Crawford's bust to be beautiful, it is what is within.

Well you could do all this and stay relatively cool. It is hard work staying cool, but if you want an easier way out, you can always catch the next flight into the Swiss Alps and go skiing. But then you would miss all those amazing looking, lovely women wouldn't you, tough choice, but then its your life, live it the way you want to.

Happy Summertime and do
not leave home without
your Ray Bans,
POLLY P.

CHER -BELIEVE



Do you believe in love after love...after love... after love? Hmm....Interesting question, don't you think? In today's modern world, love has been replaced by...get this...'Money' of all things! And this woman's learnt it the hard way.

But now she's back! And she's badder than ever. Just when you thought it was safe to come out and play - Boom! She gets you right where it hurts. The woman's called Cher. And this time she doesn't care! After going through hell and back, she's proved that she's 'Strong Enough' to still rock the scene. It all started way back in 1946, when Cheryl Sarkisian was born to a poor farmer and his wife. Little did they know, who they brought into this world. By the time the young girl was 16, she dropped out of school to be a actress. Legend has it, that on a hot sunny Californian day, Cher went into a coffee shop on the Hollywood Boulevard and then, the rest as they say is history. Sonny Bono caught here eye and convinced the young girl what he could do for her. The year 1962. Ofcourse it was only two years later that fate took a hand in the

matter. One day Sonny took Cher along to Phil Spector's 'Gold Star Studios' where he occasionally did percussion. A backing singer didn't turn up, so Cher stood in for her. Over the next few months, she sang backup on a number of songs as well as recoding some duets with Sonny. The story goes, that in the same year Cher and Sonny had their informal little marriage ceremony. It was a hotel bathroom in Tijuana, with no minister present, just the two of them exchanging their rings and vows. But it wasn't till 1965, when Elvis was still king, and The Beatles ruled the waves, when 'I Got You Babe' hit no.1 across the world. The duo's first big hit, it set the ball rolling for the big league. Cher's first solo effect 'Bang Bang, My Baby Shot Me Down' topped charts the very next year. By the time Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in '69, Cher and Sonny officially got married, had a daughter named Chastity, and even completed a film of the same name.

With the spaced out sixties finito, in came the swinging seventies - with the duo in full form. First they got their own TV show, then the album 'Dark Lady' brings another gold disc for Cher. Ofcourse the trouble is, when both the people are wild and crazy, sparks are bound to fly. So it came as no surprise, when the little hellcat Cher and Sonny go divorced in '75. Now this is where it gets juicy. Cher, three days after getting her divorce, married musician Gregory Le Noire Allman at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Ten days later- POW! She dumps the poor sucker and files for divorce. The decision, she says was because of Allman's constant drug abuse and stuff. Ok, but try to explain that to poor Elijah Blue Allman, the son they gave birth to the next year. But I guess he survived. Just like the song goes. In '82, Cher met up with the 'I Would Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)' psycho himself - 'Meatloaf' the song 'Dead Ringer For Love', and it gets the juices shakin'. Next on the cards, we got Cher the actress. In '83' she won a Golden Globe for best actress, got nominated for a Academy Award and even proved that she knew what she was doing. A couple of films later- 'The Witches Of Eastwick', 'Suspect' and 'Moonstruck' - Cher finally does get to win that Oscar. Her self titled 'Cher' was released by Geffen Records, with brilliant stuff like 'We All Sleep Alone' and the heart wrenching 'I Found Someone'. This record had everyone from Michael Bolton to Bon Jovi on it. After a gap of fourteen years, she was back to reclaim her trophy. Still in '89' her 'Heart Of Stone' didn't quite pack a whole lot of punch.

However as John F. Kennedy himself said 'change is inevitable' with the nineties, we got this new brand of firecracker - Cher the 'Woman Dare'. First she exploded like a bomb with 'The Shoop Shoop Song' at no.1, and then hit the ground with her 'Love Hurts' effort. No more Miss nice girl! Older, wiser and more slimmer than ever, this is one woman who's not giving up without a fight. With a couple of hits in the beginning of the nineties, now she's done it again.

'Believe' the new album was a kind of growing up for her.

First her long last partner in crime, Sonny Bono got killed last year in terrible accident. Then her daughter revealed to the whole world that she was a lesbian. Cher took it all in her stride and the result - sensational! 'Believe' hit no.1 in God knows how many places and the new single 'Strong Enough' is in the top ten right now. In many ways, this was her kind of message to the world, that I'm back and still stealing the show. Cool, baby! 1999 looks like it could be her biggest year yet. With new two compilations of hers just released, I wondered what was next up on the cards for her? Well you know what they say, when in doubt always ask? So that's exactly what I did. And here's what she said —

Fali: *You're over fifty now. Do you buy the line "I'm not getting older, I'm getting better"?*

Cher: Well, I am getting older, but I don't know what I am getting. I mean, sure, I know a lot of things now that I didn't know when I was younger, but so what? That and five bucks will get you a cup of coffee.

Fali: *Hmm...So you're not upset about getting older?*

Cher: What's there to be upset about? I look good, I am still on my motorcycle, and I still kick ass.

Fali: *Right. Your new comeback album is titled....*

Cher: I've had so many comebacks, I should have the comeback of the Universe Award (laughs)

Fali: *Believe! Ok, were you surprised by the success of Believe?*

Cher: U2, George Michael and Alanis Morissette all were out with their new discs. Therefore it was mad that 'Believe' entered so highly in the charts. The radio stations were also great. They played the song so frequently and in such a way, that I knew it would be a hit. That it would be so successful, I never suspected.

Fali: *How long did it actually take you to come up with the record?*

Cher: Eight months altogether. Actually no dance album was planned. The boss of my record company sent me a couple of songs and stuff. And two of them 'Strong Enough' and 'Dov' El Amore' made me really happy. I thought they were really dance able and stuff. The rest kinda followed.

Fali: *So what do you think has changed, since you began thirty odd years ago?*

Cher: I feel like I have a lot on my horizon. At first I didn't like the idea of being in my fifties. In fact I hated it. But you always have to figure out new ways to stay in the game, you know? My mom used to tell me to be glad I was different. I've never compromised on who I am - not ever!

Fali: *Now with Sonny gone, what's your relationship like with your other ex, Gregg Allman?*

Cher: Not very deep, but very friendly. He's a sweet natured gentleman who never swears..(laughs) he used to call me 'Old Toilet Mouth'. Sweet.

Fali: *The song goes 'Do you believe in Love after love?' So do you?*

Cher: No, I have to thing that I'm In love. There's a lot of lust involved, but to me it comes after there's a connection.

Fali: *So you make the first move with a man?*

Cher: No, a guy's gotta be tough enough to come after me. Otherwise I just chew him up and spit him out.

Fali: *Ok, what's a pick up line that absolutely won't work with you?*

Cher: God, I don't know. Tell me one.

Fali: *Hey Baby! Can I buy you a drink?*

Cher: (Laughs) If anybody calls me baby in the first ten minutes, they're out!

Fali: *So what's a line that might work? Come on, I'm new at this.*

Cher: What happened to your old teeth? (laughs) HA ha ha.....

Fali: *'Strong Enough' sounds.... hot. Can you define sexy?*

Cher: Sexy is a feeling and an art and something you have to be really interested in, like playing the violin - you've got to really like doing it and be really good at it.

Fali: *What's true about you, that you wish weren't?*

Cher: I'm very insecure about my looks.

Fali: *Your daughter Chastity came out to you with her being a lesbian and you freaked out....*

Cher: I was surprised at that myself. I think I knew about it for a long time and didn't want it to be true and was frightened. It was really selfishness and fear on my part: I wanted her to be an extension of me in some sick, mother-twisted sort of way. And I thought 'how this look's' and 'does this mean I won't have any grandchildren and all sorts of silly thing. It was all very unhip and un-Cher-like of me.

Fali: *So you're not a real toughie after all?*

Cher: I'm a nice person but you can't say yes to everyone-I don't mean to sound so tough. I do get hurt and cry, that's the little girl in me.

Fali: *Hmm....nice going Miss C! What's your message to the other kids out there?*

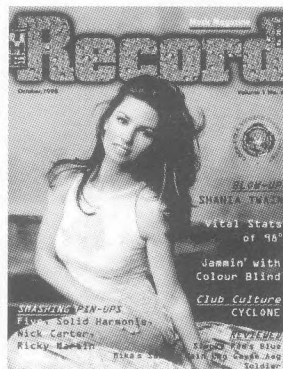
Cher: Don't let people tell you what's right—you tell them! No one ever told me I could sing or act or do anything, and everyone kept telling me I was on my was out every fifteen minutes. But it's like that joke "After there's a nuclear holocaust, there'll be cockroaches and Cher." I'm sure it wasn't meant as a compliment, but I take it as one.

Whatever you say woman! There you have it Cher and her belief, that maybe there is love after love... after love... after love. Get with it people! Cher is the woman of the hour. And she's doing a terrific job at keeping us happy. Trust me, I'm good at this.

By: Fali R Singara



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THE EYE OF THE EAGLE

They say 'life can be tough when you've got famous parents, but imagine how tough life would be if not only was your father a legendary musician, but your sister had sold millions of albums to boot. Well, that's the situation that poor old Eagle-Eye Cherry found himself in - a young musician who just happened to be the son of legendary jazz musician, Don Cherry and brother of sexy diva, Neneh Cherry. But with a Top Ten album ('Desireless') and two Top Ten hits ('Save Tonight' and 'Falling In Love Again'),

been by the rest of his talented family, but his actual influences come from a much different place, as anyone who's heard 'Desireless' - a stunning acoustic album, filled with gorgeous songs about love, betrayal gorgeous songs about love, betrayal, passion and addiction - can testify. Eagle-Eye's influences include Bob Dylan who he describes as "THE lyricist of the century": "He has a fantastic body of words", he enthuses. Neil

EAGLE EYE CHERRY

Eagle-Eye doesn't have a hell of a lot to complain about...

We caught up with Eagle-Eye in Strasbourg on the phone, right in the middle of his European tour, which he was enjoying, but he admitted that he couldn't wait to play Ireland (he played the Olympia Theatre on November 27): "I'm looking forward to Ireland", he told us. "I've never been there before, but everyone I've met from there has been really nice. And I'm looking forward to getting a real pint of Guinness-I've been told that I haven't had a proper print of Guinness until I've been to Ireland".

Born in rural Sweden and brought up in Brooklyn, New York, music was obviously a part of Eagle-Eye's life from an early age, due mostly to his late father. Indeed, the title track of his debut album is a tribute of sorts to his father, who died while the album was being completed: "I probably would have done a Don Cherry song regardless of whether he had passed away or not", he admits. "Not only was he one of the greatest musician, he was also a great man. Being around Dad obviously inspired me. Everyday life and music were just one and the same. However, after Neneh became really successful, I had to step back from it for a while-it was mad, really crazy. I didn't think it was for me. But I learnt a lot from Dad and from Neneh about handling success".

Inspired he may have

Young is also an influence, but another major influence is reggae maestro Bob Marley: "I listened to him when I was a kid, and I still listen to him now", he says. "I love the simplicity of his songs and his live performance".

Simplicity is the key word of Eagle-Eye's stripped-down raw and emotive acoustic songs, but he admits that the album would have sounded different if it had been written in New York: "I started writing the songs when I left New York for Stockholm three year ago", he says. "I had to get out of New York for a lot of reasons - the intensity and also just being in the same place for too long. I wanted somewhere calmer and cooler". So, it was back to Sweden, a place that had always held a special place in Eagle-Eye's heart: "I think I'm a country boy at heart", he admits. "The



"I probably would have done a Don Cherry song regardless of whether he had passed away or not"

"All the lyrics are New York tales, though, but it was getting out of New York that give me the perspective to write the songs. Stockholm was definitely like a greenhouse effect"



Swedish

mountains where I was born were like paradise for a kid-I can still remember stepping out of my house, playing in the forest and not coming home until dinner time - it was beautiful".

And Stockholm certainly proved to be an aid for Eagle-Eye's creativity: "There's not much else to do in Stockholm except write tunes", he admits. "All the lyrics are New York tales, though, but it was getting out of New York that give me the perspective to write the songs. Stockholm was definitely like a greenhouse effect".

However, rather oddly for one with such obvious musical ability, Eagle-Eye decided to take up acting after he left college: "I had played drums from an early age, but after I finished my degree in performing arts, I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I tried acting", he says. "I lived off it for a long time, doing theatre and episodic stuff, like 'The Cosby Show'. "However, though, he won't be giving up music to return to the thespian world: "I'd maybe do it again if something interesting came up", he says. "And I'd love to do a movie, especially a Quentin Tarantino one, but I wouldn't leave music".

So it seems that we look set to have yet another Cherry star in our midst, but surely Eagle-Eye must be fed up of constantly being referred to as 'Don's son' or 'Neneh's brother'? Apparently not, it would seem...: "I would have been very naive if I hadn't expected it", he says, wisely. "But I had a good relationship with Dad and I have a good relationship with Neneh, so I don't have a problem with talking about them. I've seen other kids in similar situations who have a hard time talking

a b o u t

their famous families, because of different situations.

However, this album has gone way beyond my expectations, and I'm not complaining about the connection it didn't hurt, though, I can tell you!" But surely, I think, my fiendishly gossipy mind at work there must have been SOME sibling rivalry between Neneh and Eagle-Eye, even if it WAS just when they were in nappies?: "Oh yeah," he laughs. "She was a real disciplinarian when I was young, always made me chew with my mouth shut. No, it was just regular brother and sister stuff". Ah well, you can only try. Does this mean that the pair may work together in the future?: "Oh yeah", he says, enthusiastically. "We've already talked about it. She's working on her new album at the minute and we were talking about doing a song, but our schedules clashed. I'd love to work with her though. She's got a great voice and her personality shines through in every song",

For someone, though, who's already achieved so much, Eagle-Eye still remains awe-struck by his success: "This year's just been...". he trails off. "I thought I'd have to wait a long time to achieve what I have in one year". So what is there left that he'd still like to achieve?: "I'd just love to make loads of albums", he says, simply. "But I don't want to get stuck in a trap of releasing average albums for years and years. Maybe if I could release one album that could stand the test of time - that would be the ultimate triumph". Some people might think he's done it already!...

By: Nikhil Vaz

WORDSEARCH

No.1

Created By: Verus Ferriera

E A L L S A I N T S O A P Z
 N U E Z N U T X P Y T B O N
 O M W O A S Z I W E S Y O H
 Z A E A P H C P E O Z S T B
 Y O J C H E R I S M K I M N
 O T T R G R L T E C M A V O
 B E E I V A U T A S R G E I
 G R R G N W A J O L A A N D
 A L Y R E L T R E N E O G E
 S J E A L E E Y I L J I A N
 P T O I N A S G E Q O H B I
 E Q C A J A D A M S H O O L
 T A J D I A N A K I N G Y E
 S M E R Y C R E M O N O S C

- Celine Dion
- Steps
- Spice Girls
- Metallica
- All Saints
- SOAP
- Jewel
- OTT
- Eternal
- Snap
- Bryan Adams
- Elton John
- Cher
- Usher
- Vengaboys
- Bono
- Diana King
- Wes
- Gina G
- Janet Jackson
- No Mercy
- Bob Marley
- Aerosmith
- Bee Gees

Find the hidden name not mentioned in the list alongside?

Ans.: _____

Send in your entries to 'The Record Music Magazine' at 36, Ideal Industrial Estate, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013.

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- 1) _____
- 2) _____

My Favourite Female Music Stars:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Features I Liked Best / Least In This Issue

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Stars I Would Like To See On Next Months Cover:

- 1) _____
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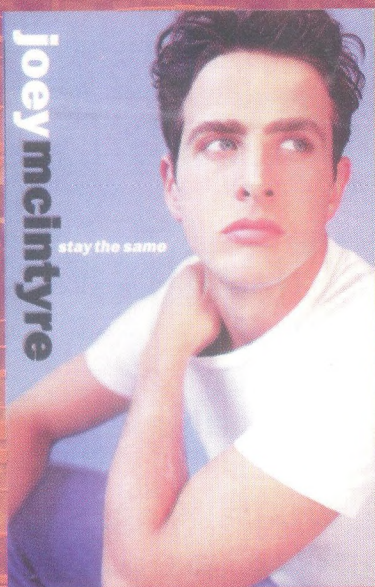
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JOEY MCINTYRE

Stay The Same

'Step By Step'...that's how the song went. But who remembers those kids anyway. Now suddenly out of the blue, from a far away desktop one of them has returned.



"New Kids On The Block"...they were big, they were huge and they were stupid. But looks like maturity has finally reached one of them. Joey McIntyre the bratty teeny bopper has grown into a fine young fellow. The albums called 'Stay The Same' and it's surprising in many ways. The first single, the title track is picking up a lot on airplay. McIntyre's music sounds a bit like a young Rick Price, but he's moving slowly to his own style. The thirteen tracks on the album are at times

a bit monotonous, and at times you feel like wanting to break something around you. The beauty of the guy is, he's smart and knows his music. He coolly rips off classics like 'Rock Freak' (the 70's big hit) in his 'Give It Up' and even clones a few of The New Kid's pop grooves. But no complaints. whatever he did, he did it with his own twist to the whole story. Hip-Hop, soul and alot of R & B are very prominent as the influences behind 'Stay The Same'.

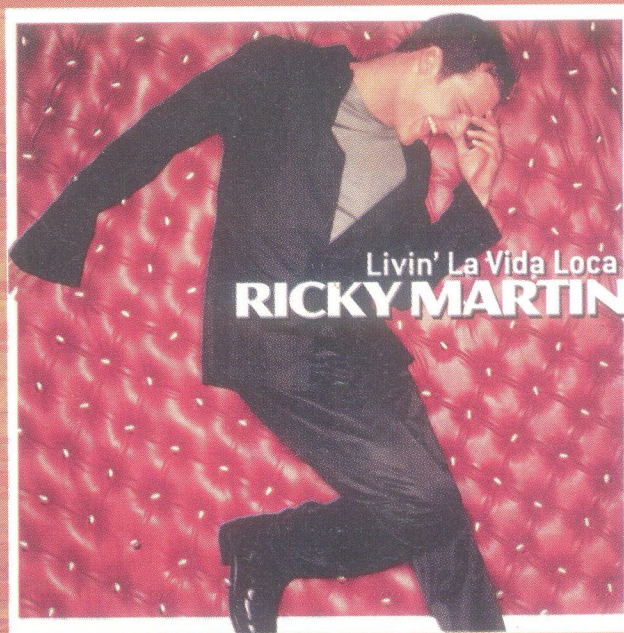
He's got a lot to learn yet, but then everyone has to start somewhere. 'I Cried' and 'Without Your Love' are definitely going to give him a couple of hits. Joey McIntyre is taking it 'Step By Step'. Stay the same women! That's his advice.

RICKY MARTIN

Living' La Vida Loca

Ricky Martin. Do I really need to go on? After selling 10 million copies world wide of his last record, the hot latino is back. If you thought 'Vuelve' was smokin' wait till you check out the latest offering.

The albums in the making, and if the first single is anything to judge it by — it's going to be one sizzling summer. From Menudo poster boy to sincere vocalist Martin is polishing up his act. the songs called 'Living' La Vida Loca' and in simple words — VAVAVOOM! Baby, the women in the video can take me home any time! Spectacular backgrounds, crazy costumes and Hot! Hot! Hot! Women — Man, Ricky Martin is the thing. The Spanish fly gets you high, and the tempo is just right. The single already is burning up the charts, which is no surprise really. The surprise is that after being around



for so long, America finally discovered the boy here. Looks like things are going really well at the moment for him. First he won the Grammy this year for the Best Latin Pop performance and then his album went platinum once again. Martin has always been popular here in India, and when he did come down a couple of months ago, I got a chance to have a one on one with the man. And he's a pretty down to earth guy.

He just happened to be at the right place at the right time. Living' La Vida Loca just cements his stardom an inch deeper. And watch out for the video. But now I don't really have to tell you that. Wherever there's Ricky Martin, sexy young women are sure to follow!

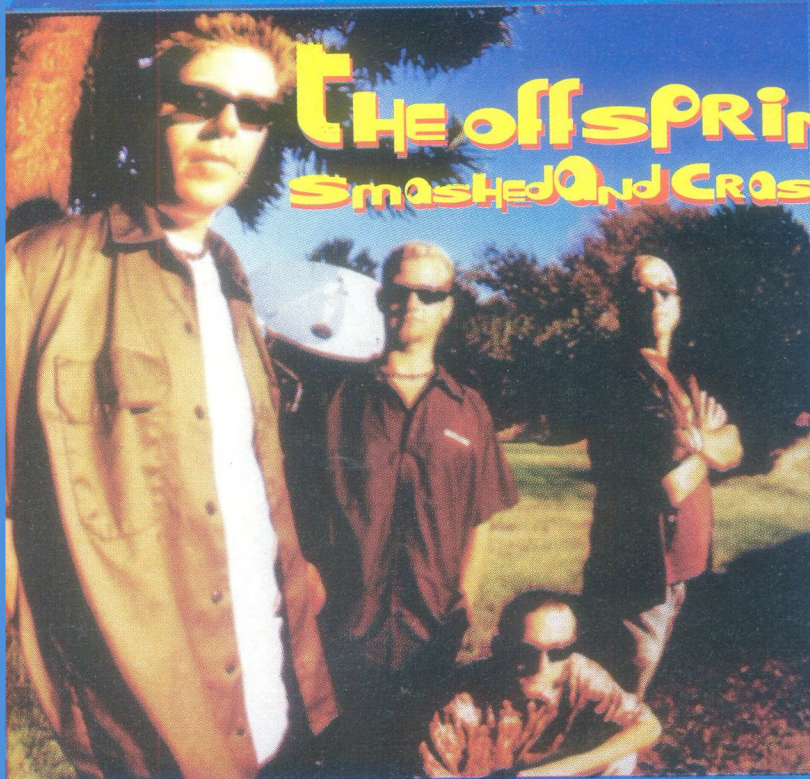


We are music

SONY MUSIC

America has always been obsessed with the things that they can't control or understand. As a result, the X Files, Marilyn Manson and The Offsprings are the newest and hippest way to get high.

'Americana' is the offsprings latest effort, and it seems to be outta control, freaked out and wickedly



sober. And that's a surprise for these guys. Been together for almost a decade now, Holland, Noodles, Greg K. and Welty are finally putting back the pieces. After their No.1 selling 'Smash' the album has a lot of sounds that are untraceable. The influence varies from the punk scene to the more stabilizing rock gods 'The Ramones'. Their cover of the bands classic 'I Wanna Be Sedated' is going to released later this fall for the new horror/comedy "Idle Hands" with Austin Powers 'Seth Green'. Dexter the lead vocalist has already founded his own independent record label 'Nitro' which promotes and sings up new alternative bands. To know how good 'Americana' sounds, check out the reviews page in this magazine itself.

America is never going to learn. When the dark day finally does come upon us, The Offspring are ready with their heavy gear to drive away the rodden. Buckle up grandma it's time you took a little ride with these boys!

THE OTHER SISTER - motion picture soundtrack

The Other Sister is a touching, sometimes heart warming story about a ordinary little thing called life. With some exceptional performance from a very talented cast, the movie is good. And so is the music.

The first single to be released was 'The Animal Song' by the 'I Want You' boys. Yup, after taking a little siesta, Savage Garden have returned. From the very beginning you know that you have to expect the unexpected. This is cool stuff! A kind of Michael Jackson meets Herbie Hancock sound, 'The Animal song' is a smashing popsicle of goodness. And that's not all, from the track list in front of me, you know this is big time. The pretenders have recorded a new song 'Loving You Is All I Know' which has been written by the woman herself - Diane Warren. And we know how many Grammy's are just collecting dust on the woman's beside table. Chrissie Hynde seems to getting better and better every time she does something with the boys. Other notable mentions do include Simon and Garfunkel's 'Mrs Robinson' this time visited by The Lemon Heads. Evan Dando has a powerful voice evident from his 'Hold On' days. Fast Ball are just waiting for the other sister to just come around.

Good. Because it'll be a long wait. The millennium woman is one hot mama. No fooling with this girl, boys! Like Savage Garden neatly put it in the song - "I want to hide/I want to play/ the women are the animals/ now I want to stay"!

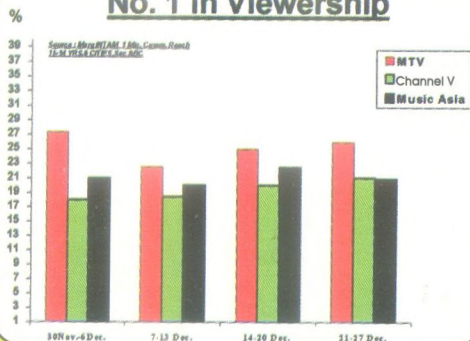


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SONY MUSIC

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Check it out now.... 'cause right about now it's the hottest sound that's ruling the music waves... and it's called Big Beat. Yeah people, Big Beat which is a wicked fusion of funk, hip-hop, breakbeats and acid techno is the latest craze on the dance floors and was pioneered by none other than — Fatboy Slim. Most of you pub crawlers out there must be familiar with Fatboy Slim's music as no swinging party can be complete without a few of this guy's tracks doing the rounds.

But after nearly 15 years in the music business, he is still an enigma to most of his fans. And the main reason for that is, **Norman Cook a.k.a. Fatboy Slim, hates interviews.** "Somebody else should do them for me", he complains, "somebody better looking than me". He's not too keen on biographies either. "I don't see why people have to be hampered by the truth. Can't you just write a story about Roger the

hop records played at the 45". Fatboy's first album was "Santa Cruz" which Norman called "hip hop you can dance to". His buddy G Money coined the term Big Beat to suit his style of music. It was the first release on Damien Harris' Skint label. Norman soon discovered that other people liked his type of music and two top London clubs "The Sunday Social" and "Big Kahuna Burger" offered him jobs as a DJ. He was terribly excited over these big offers but soon got sick of traveling all the way from Brighton to London to DJ and dance. So Norman, Damien and G Money decided to start a night club of their own and thus was born — The Big Beat Boutique with Norman as the resident DJ. The place was so much fun that people started traveling from London to party there. Meanwhile, the second Fatboy Slim single, the thumping "Everybody Loves a 303" was released and became a massive hit. Soon

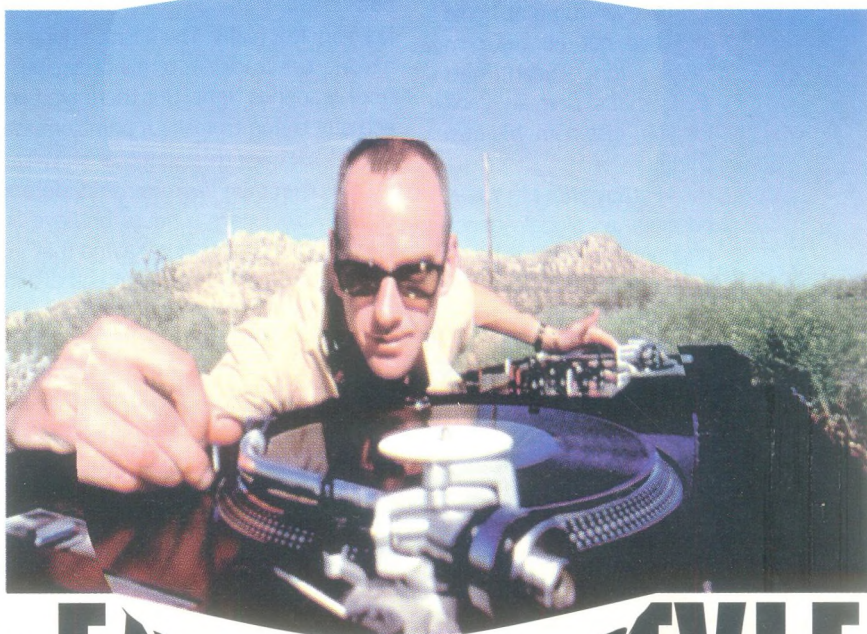
MOVING TO THE GROOVE

Radish or something ridiculous like that?" Well, Fatboy Slim may be shy, but we've decided to give him to you a platter.

Though Norman Cook is definitely not your typical pop-star, he is one of the world's most sought after DJ's today. Born in Bromely, England, Norman moved to Brighton to attend college and that's where he was introduced to DJing. He began his music career as the bassist for the 80's socialist brit-pop band — The House Martins. This decidedly non-dance music band scored a British no. 1 in 1986 with a cover of Isely Brother's "Caravan Of Love". After the band split up, Norman forged a career as a remixer with a mix of Eric B and Rakim's "I Know You Got Soul". He then formed the fun, dub heavy - Beats International who went on to record a British no.1 "Dub Be Good To Me".

But soon after, thing started going awry. Norman got divorced, had a nervous breakdown and didn't work for the next 2 years. But one night when he was out with a friend, Norman heard Robert Owens singing "I'll be Your Friend" and that was the turning point. He formed a new group called "Freakpower" and nearly come up with another British no.1 with "Turn On, Tune In, Cop Out" which finally peaked out at number 2. But their second album "More Of Everything For Everybody" bombed badly. Norman then released a slew of singles under various aliases like Pizzaman, The Mighty Dub Kats and Fried Funk Food. And finally, in 1995 came — Fatboy Slim.

The name "Fatboy Slim", according to Norman, comes from a "Louisiana blues singer from the 40's famed for a song called "Baby, I Want a Piece of Your Pie". And the sound comes from "hip



Fatboy started churning out winners like the crazed "Punk to Funk", the stonking "Going Out of My Mind" and the scorching "Everybody Loves a Carnival".

The success of these singles prompted him to release his debut album "Better Living Through Chemistry" which was recorded over the course of a week in early 1996 in the attic of Norman's home affectionately called "The House of Love". The album's title refers to a slogan in America from the 50's advocating that hyperactive children should be quieted down with large doses of valium. The title was also an acknowledgment to his pals "The Chemical Brothers" who convinced

him to put the album together. Better Living Through Chemistry was the soundtrack for the new generation which fused in some cool funk, soul and lots of jazzed up techno into one vibrant piece of work. "It wasn't a massive release, but people heard about it by word of mouth. It's got legs...."

Enter 1998. A few months down and Norman already had a number 3 hit and another number 1 with his remixes of Wildchild's "Renegade Master" and Cornershop's "Brimful of Asha". And then came the release of Fatboy Slim's second album "You've Come A Long Way, Baby". The first single from this album "The Rockafeller Skank" combined a recipe of breakbeat, surf guitar and wild hip-hop that sent the disco crowds into ecstasy. Released in mid-98, this song is still burning up dance floors everywhere. "You've Come A Long Way Baby" is

FATBOY SLIM

Fatboy Slim also declared he has never been one for making videos especially the conventional variety. And that is why all his videos have a cutting edge to them.

definitely Fatboy Slim at his best, with 11 dynamite tracks that are guaranteed to keep the feet moving. From the pounding no.1 hit "Praise You" and the tongue in-cheek "Kalifornia" to the acid rave- up "Acid 8000" and the string-led thriller "Right Here, Right Now", not forgetting the phenomenal "The Rockafeller Skank", this is one helluva dance album for the party fanatics. And the figures speak for themselves. The album sales have rocketed to almost 2 million worldwide. It went double platinum in the UK and number 1 in the States and Australia, apart from being a mega success all over Europe.

Fatboy Slim also declared he has never been one for making videos especially the conventional variety. And that is why all his videos have a cutting edge to them. From the cult video "Praise You" directed by Spike Jones to his latest "Right Here, Right Now" which shows a brilliant interpretation of the evolution of the Fatboy as featured on the sleeve of the album. If you haven't checked out these videos, you've missed something 'cause they have to be seen to be believed. But what's the secret his success? "I'm kind to animals, I do everything at home

and I've got all my own teeth". Uhh.... yeah right. Well, that's Norman Cook for you, just doin' his own thing.

Fatboy Slim has today become a global dance phenomenon and his brand of music - Big Beat, is taking the world by storm. So go ahead and move to his groove, 'cause right here, right now it's definitely one of the hottest dance albums around.

We also got an exclusive interview with the Fatboy himself:-

Sanjay: What are the reasons for your various aliases?

Norman: There are various reason really. Firstly,

there are the legal reasons which include the different record companies and record contracts. Secondly, I also do different kinds of music and different styles. It confuses people if you keep jumpin about. So a new name gives a definite identity to every sound in their heads. There are various people who love the Pizzama tracks but just hate Fatboy Slim, you know. Also, I've been around for so long, lots of people are bit bored with me. **So if I'm doing something new and people don't know it's me, they listen to it with fresher ears.** Especially a lot of journalists in England, who if they knew it was me would say "God, not him again" and probably not write about it (chuckles). It keeps me on my toes, keeps them on their toes and keeps the lawyers from the door.

Sanjay: Is there a different personality for every name? And if so, how do you cope with it?

Norman: Er.... not for all of them, may be some Fatboy is defiantly different personality of lunatic and I'm quite normal actually. But some are quit faceless really, like the one's with a group name like The Mighty Dub Cats. But I normally tend to do the track first and decide on who it is going to be at the end. I don't do interviews or promote the albums so I don't have to act out these fantasy people. I just make my music and send it to the record companies. So I can just sit at home and be Norman which is how I like it best.

Sanjay: Why do you think Fatboy Slim and your brand of music - Big Beat are so big at the moment?

Norman: I always said that we are popular because we are having more fun than other people at the moment. People have reacted well to what we are doing, which is weird because we never really thought it could be so big. It was just supposed to be a hobby and a laugh. But it seems to have caught people's imagination and I guess we are really lucky. **Big Beat is all about having fun on a great tune with a stonking beat** and people really seem to get off on it.

Sanjay: Have you tried to send a message, with 'You've Come A Long Way Baby'?

Norman: Not really. There isn't a huge amount of thought that goes into making the tracks in terms of saying anything I just play off around until it sounds right. But there are two hits on the album where I was actually trying to make a point one was 'Gangster Tripping' **I feel we gotta kick back this gangster shit, 'cause I really hate rappers going on about women and guns and violence and glorifying the gangster thing.** Also I have a house on Love Island. And with the track 'Love Island', I was just sort of saying that I do all this stuff but I love house music as well. Another point is that I'm thankful that I'm doing what I enjoy most, I'm in heaven, you know What better job is there other than indulging yourself and getting away with it. That's the thought behind F*#king in heaven'. The rest of the album is just crazy dance stuff.

Sanjay: Would you like to do albums with other artists or do you prefer working on your own?

Norman: I prefer doing my own thing rather than collaborating with people 'cause I'm quite shy. Also I'm not into working with musicians. I did it for 10 years and they're all so ... difficult. **I prefer working with machines than musicians 'cause they don't get drunk, or turn up late or ask for more money... I've had it upto here with musicians.**

Sanjay: What's your favourite - remixing or producing?

Norman: Making a tune and playing it to people is great. Like the first time I played 'Rockafeller Skank' at the Boutique, I was just like floating around 4 feet in the air you know 'cause the people just tripped on it. It doesn't get any better than that. **Remaking will always be like the bridesmaid but never the blushing bride.**

Sanjay: Do you have any more ambitions to fulfil? And what are the plans for the future?

Norman: Well as far as ambition goes, I would really like to do a film soundtrack one day. But it takes about 8 months, so I don't have the time or patience right now. **That and having sex with a celebrity are the only 2 ambition I have left** (laughs heavily) The future plans include something with Freddie Fresh and also some remixes with the Beastie Boys. And, ofcourse, I'll be working on some new tunes for Fatboy Slim.

By: Sanjay Santwan

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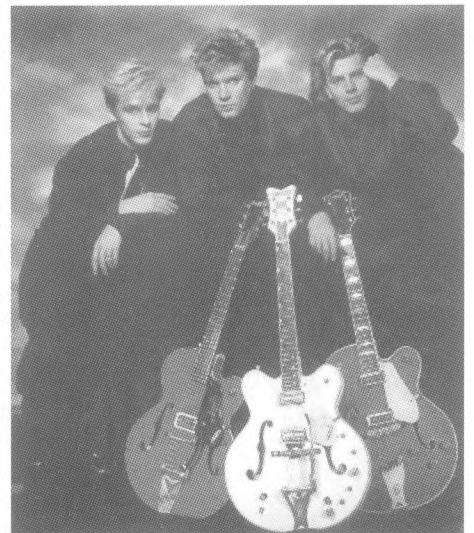
Darkness once again. As the city sleeps, they watch silently - the little boy crying softly in his bed, the baby dying in his mother's arms. They see the rich and the useless, warm and cosy, eating to their heart's content and the poor - the poor, hungry and shivering in their bumbled rags.

But they won't cry for yesterday. Duran Duran. It's an ordinary world and somehow they have survived. It's been a long journey and as they made their way, they learn't, they learn't that man is a untamable creature. To understand, we begin our journey in another dimension, a time when mankind still had it's humanity. The date-1978 and the place-England. It was midnight and a little art school group came up on stage, in front of a punk rock crowd, who were wielding cans and spitting at everybody they possibly could. Rhodes, Taylor, Colly and Duffy were ready to tame the animals. the crowd never knew what hit them. Ofcourse Colly and Duffy left soon after, but that's another story. The name-Duran Duran was taken from the sci-fi cult flick 'Barbarella', you know, the one in which the sexy Jane Fonda battles the evil scientist Duran. Cool. Anyway Andy Wickett and Roger Taylor entered the scene. It was 79' by now and Duran Duran were ready to make their first demo. Four songs were recorded including the hits 'Girls On Film' and 'Dreaming Of Your Cars'. Not long after the demo was finished, Wickett left and Curtis joined. With the demo in hand, the band approached Paul and Michael Berrow, as they were looking for someone to manage them. They not only pulled that off but got a residency at Berrow's new club and Rhodes landed a gig as the club DJ. It seemed like a perfect partnership, the only problem was, the Berrows didn't think much of Thomas' vocal abilities and guitarist Curtis didn't think much of the Berrows. So the band lost a singer and a guitar player.

Thus began the search for the Holy Grail. When the band begun to audition for singers and guitar players, they'd tell the singers that the guitar player was sick, and then the guitarists at their turn, were told the singer was sick. Enter "this weird looking dude with leather skin pants and a book of poetry with him". That was the bands first impression of the

man who made them what they are today - Simon Le Bon. The band was as impressed with Le Bon, as he was with them, that not only did they enlist him on the spot, but the song "Sound Of Thunder" (one of their first big hits) was actually completed at the audition! After the band got back into the studio, guitarist Andy Taylor joined them little later. Record companies started coming from all over the country to see the band then. Finally they snagged a deal with EMI and ended up getting ripped off left, right and center, just like every other new band does. The only saving grace was, that the band got complete artistic control over everything they ever did, from music to videos album covers, photo etc. Duran Duran's first album was just insanity —the music while pop tinged and dance fueled, had a dark side of the moon to it. They became a phenomenal achievement, with their first video 'Girls On Film' adding fuel to their

fire. The video was filled with scantily clad penthouse center folds and both the BBC and MTV banned the video. Now you have to remember, after the crazed out sixties, with The Beatles, The Doors and The Stones, the last thing the band expected, that in 1981 it would happen all over again. The kids were going crazy and rock 'n' roll mania was here to stay. They had a huge female following all over the world in no time. But nothing prepared them for what happened next. 'Rio' crashed straight in at No. 2 on the charts. And after that there was no looking back. MTV picked the band up as the choice of the Generation X. The songs on the album were brilliant, with their pure innocent pop thrills and Le Bon's screeching howl. The next single 'Hungry Like The Wolf' again went straight into the top ten. Even today Le Bon's scorching vocals and the mind blowing drumbeats gets the rubber burning. Faster than a speeding bullet more powerful than a locomotive, no it wasn't Superman - it was Duran Duran. Stuff like 'Save A Prayer' and 'Lonely In Your Nightmare' was the poor rockers answer to salvation. Technical wizardry, smooth grooves and block rocking beats are exactly what everyone loved the band for. Initially Duran Duran garnered a more new wave crowd, with the eighties punksters and die-hard romantics. But the Irony was - the very establishment the band were rebelling against - loved them! The older, more mature crowd seemed to like these spaced out, all thrashing saviors. My dad was one of them. Ever since I can remember, 'Hungry Like The Wolf' 'Rio' and



'Save A Prayer' were my tantrum anthems. I remember, I used to watch the videos on good old Doordarshan (the show was 'Hot Tracks' - anyone remembers that?).

So did the rest of the world. Their next single "Is There Something I Should Know?" went straight in at the numero uno position. An unsuspecting America finally met the band. And after that all hell broke loose. 'The Reflex' the next piece of art was obviously the most successful of their maneuvers. "New Moon On Monday", "Shadows On Your Side" and ofcourse the now hair raising "Wild Boys" showed that the band could indulge into any kind of sound they felt like. The band picked up two Grammy's on the way and even recorded a live album 'Arena' that just cemented their perception into the history books forever. Next up on the cards was their addition to the Bond memorabilia-the soundtrack to the now infamous-'A View to A Kill'. Even in those days, when nothing seemed shockable anymore, one man still could do it - Bond, James Bond. The song ofcourse was just another feather in the cap for these boys. The surprising thing was, that after this smash hit, the band instead of recording the next album, decided to take a breather. So they all went and pushed themselves into different directions. But the record company was under too much pressure, thus Le Bon, Rhodes and Taylor formed

new bands with a legion of guest musicians and vocalists including Robert Palmer and former Chic drummer Tony Thompson. 'The Power Station' and 'Arcadia' both were good stuff, but nothing like the old Duran Duran. After a while the band decided to get back together again. But there was total chaos. Andy

announced he was leaving and then Roger formally quit the group. The remaining members were contacted by guitarist Warren Cuccurullo, whose own band, 'Missing Persons' had recently folded in. At first they weren't willing to accept him as part of the group, but that all initially changed. With the arrival of their new drummer Steve Ferrone, the band was back in business.

The next album 'Notorious' did hit the top twenty, but the band felt that something was missing. A far cry from their previous feats, the album was the bands kinda 'Dance Record'. 'Big Thing' was a kind of Duran Duran's answer to the raver's prayer. The funky piano music, the acid tempos were brilliantly executed. 'I Don't Want Your Love' nevertheless, put the band back into the top five in the US. As the nineties dawned, for the moment it seemed like their quest was over. The band released 'Decade' their greatest hits and after that just played it cool. But for all the albums innovation, the people preferred the old sound and not the remixed working of classics like 'The Reflex' and 'Planet Earth' as on

'Decade'. Even America seemed like it was no longer keen on Duran Duran, old or new. With this trepidation, the band began work on their new album 'Liberty'. with a new drummer to boot, (Ferrone departed and Campbell stepped in) the band seemed ready to rock 'n' roll. Though the record commercially wasn't a success, the bands coolest adultery matured out of this phase 'Serious' (in a few words) is exactly what God created Duran Duran for. The funky out beats, the soul screech and ofcourse Le Bon's wild trademark makes it one of their best upto date. Up-till then we knew what the band usually did.

Now this where I come in. The song- 'Ordinary World' - the year- 1993. Remember till then Duran Duran were spaced out, wild and fun to be with fellows. And here they were - more sober than they've ever been in their black cut suits. The world at that time definitely needed saving, with the Gulf war in full swing and AIDS spreading like wildfire. And Duran Duran were the new saviors with it's blunt to the point, heart wrenching lyrics, Le Bon's Crisp whisper crying for love and the tear jerking grooves-this was and still is the band's Mona Lisa. The song is to my generation what Elvis was to out parents. 'Ordinary World' hit the charts worldwide into the top ten. The next single did even more brilliantly. 'Come Undone' anyone? I could go on and on about how cool this song is, but I'm

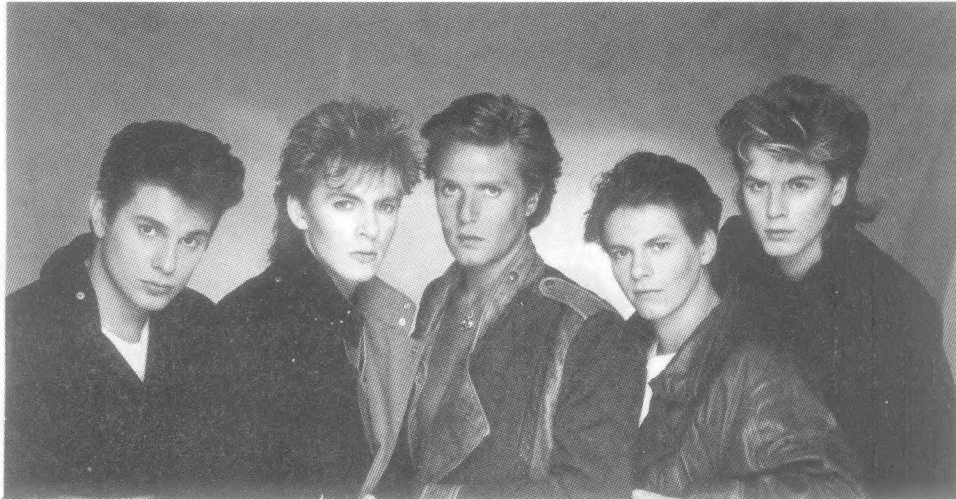
running out of time. You see the story is far from over yet! Better known as 'The Wedding Album' because of the cover's artwork, the band had finally come full circle. From the establishment's anti-heroes, they now found themselves as defenders of the weak and the helpless, defending the faith.

Society had changed for worse, and Duran Duran exposed all with 'Ordinary World' and stuff.

Their next few records- 'Thank You' a cover of all their favorite songs (which included the now immortal 'Perfect Day') and 'Meddazaland' just cemented their second coming. The high adrenalising 'Electric Barbarella' in '97 was the bands way of telling Prodigy to get lost, that they were here first

And who can argue with that? After being around for more than two decades, suddenly Duran Duran are the next big thing! But after going through hell and back, Le Bon and the boys have finally got it right To celebrate - 'GREATEST' has been release the Milestone group in India. Need I even tell you the verdict? Maybe the little boy is still crying, and the hungry are still hungry, but we now know one thing for sure. that man, whatever his faults maybe, is a fighter right till the end. And Duran Duran has shown him how to survive. It's an ordinary world, after all.

By: Fali R Singara



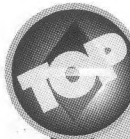
When the band began to audition for singers and guitar players, they'd tell the singers that the guitar player was sick, and then the guitarists at their turn, were told the singer was sick



TEN

The Record

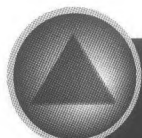
1. BELIEVE / CHER
2. BABY...ONE MORE TIME / BRITNEY SPEARS
3. WE LIKE TO PARTY / VENGABOYS
4. THE ANIMAL SONG / SAVAGE GARDEN
5. STRONG / ROBBIE WILLIAMS
6. BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN / B*WITCHED
7. HONEY TO THE B / BILLIE
8. WHEN YOU'RE GONE / BRYAN ADAMS & MEL C
9. RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW / FATBOY SLIM
10. THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH / SHANIA T.



TEN

Bollywood

1. ANARI NO.1 / TIPS
2. SIRF TUM / T SERIES
3. PYAAR MEIN KABHI KABHI / SONY MUSIC
4. SARFAROSH / TIPS
5. SILSILA PYAAR KA / T SERIES
6. DUS / T SERIES
7. KARTOOS / HMV
8. HUM AAPKE DIL MEIN REHTE / T SERIES
9. BIWI NO.1 / TIPS
10. JAANAM SAMJHA KARO / TIPS



BREAKER

BRITNEY SPEARS

Chart

The hottest Teen Queen on the circuit around the world. Spears has proved that her music appeals to one and all. '...Baby One More Time' has already reached platinum status in India. This new teen icon has been in the showbiz business since a long time. Check out her interview with The Record where she talks about her music, her life and her present obsessions.

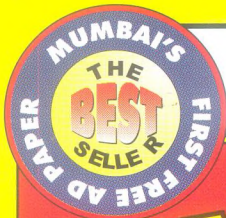


TEN

Indi-Pop

1. AB MUJHE RAAT DIN / SONU NIGAM
2. JALWA / DALER MEHENDI
3. HAINA / JASPINDER NIRULA
4. DIL LA LEY / SHWETA SHETTY
5. AAP KI DUA / KK
6. VAH VAH / ALISHA
7. AANKHON MEIN / ARYANS
8. OONCHI NICHI / ANAIDA
9. WAH BHAU WAH / PRADEEP ROY
10. SARA ZAMANA / JADOO

Note : The Record Top Ten, Bollywood Top Ten and Indi-Pop charts are based on surveys carried out by The Record Music Magazine from their Bureau Chiefs from their respective zones. These charts are based on album/artist popularity.



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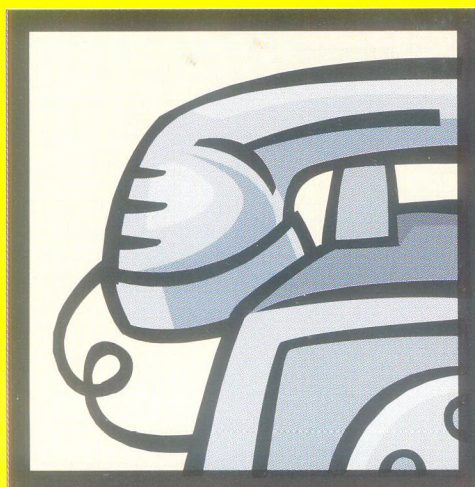
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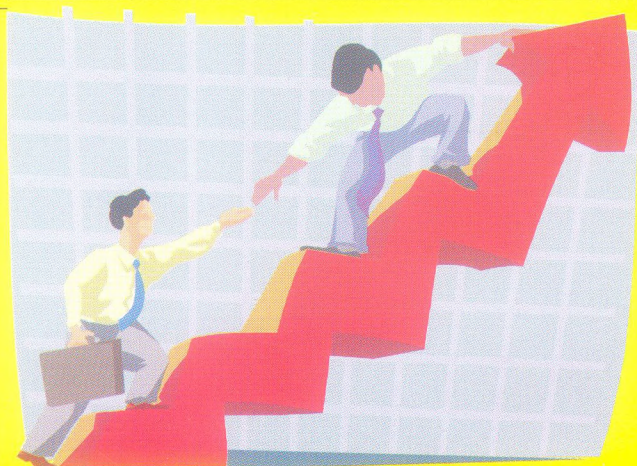
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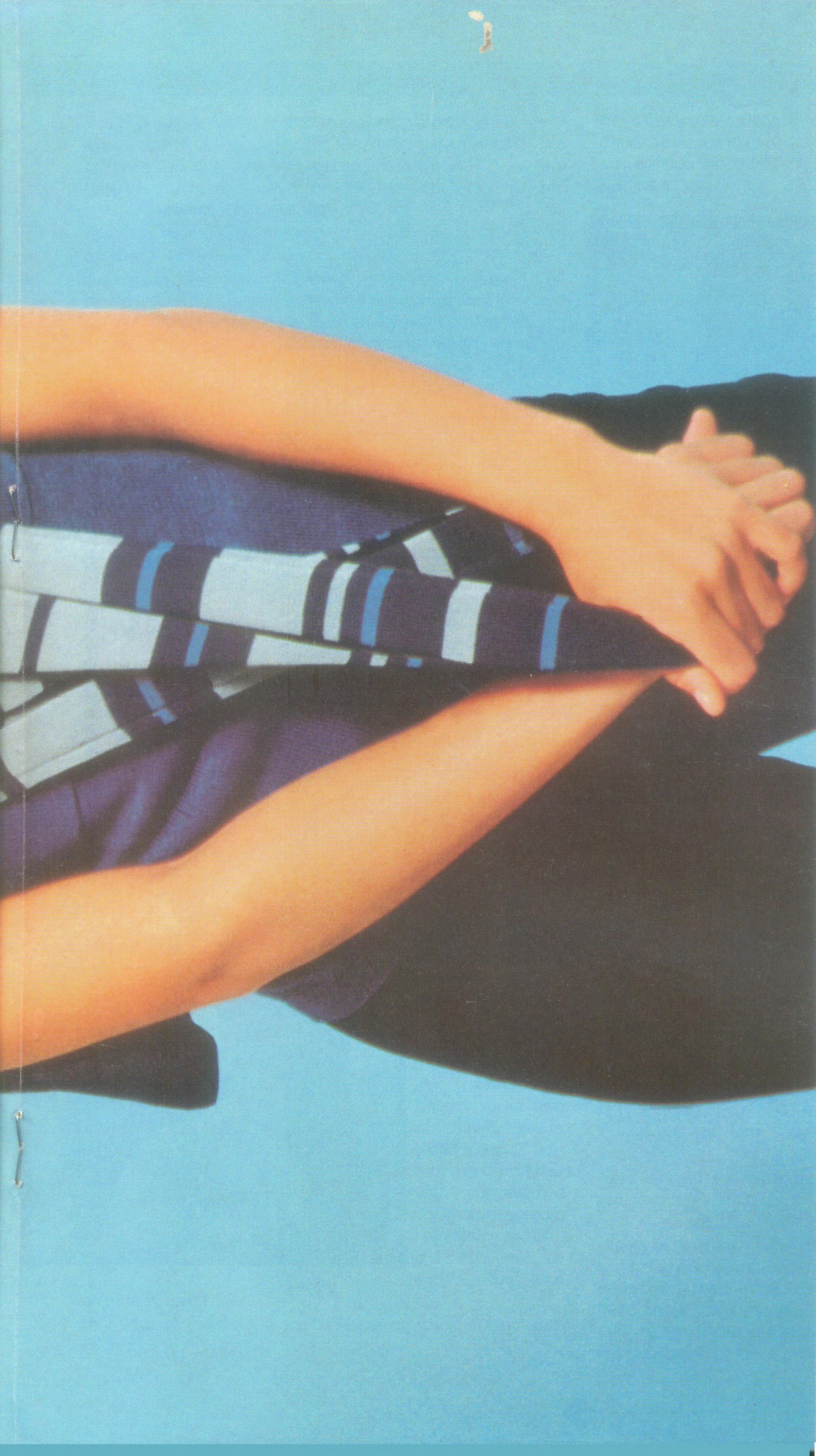
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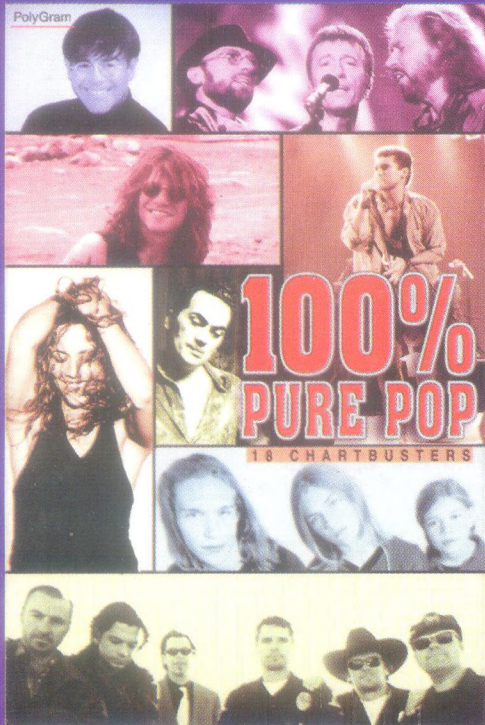
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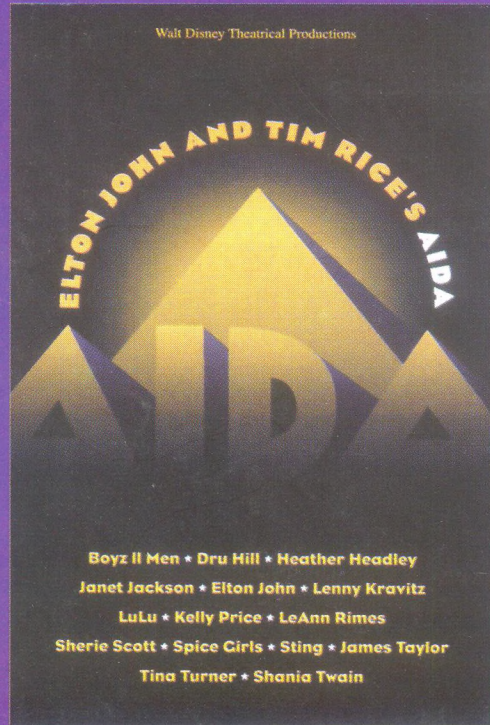


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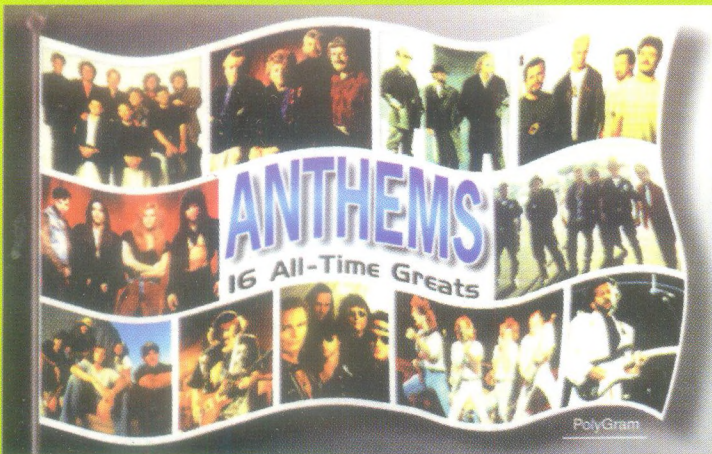
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